


THE TIMES

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Cabinet reshaped in Blair's image

Four ministers out: Chancellor reined in

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR stamped his authority on the Cabinet yesterday with a wider than expected reshuffle in which he sacked four ministers including Harriet Harman, restrained the influence of Gordon Brown and tried to relaunch his welfare reform programme.



"At least they'll know how to go about claiming the dole"

He brought the Blairites Peter Mandelson, Stephen Byers and Baroness Jay of Paddington into the Cabinet and dismissed the Old Labour ministers, Gavin Strang, David Clark and Lord Richard — whose job as leader of the Lords goes to Lady Jay. He also moved Nick Brown, a close ally of the Chancellor, from the pivotal post of Chief Whip to Agriculture Minister.

By removing Ms Harman as Social Security Secretary after a traumatic 15 months and refusing to promote her deputy, Frank Field, Mr Blair acknowledged that his much-trumpeted social security reforms needed a fresh start. The task has been given to Alistair Darling, who moves up from Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Field rejected other jobs and announced his resignation outside Number 10. It was apparently an amicable parting, with Mr Blair telling him that he still had a direct line to Downing Street for his ideas. Privately, though, it was said that Mr Field had gone because he had "failed to deliver". Ms Harman left with dignity, declaring: "I'm very proud to have helped to modernise the Labour Party over the last 15 years. I am going to fully support the Government."

The changes were Mr Blair's first moves towards the creation of a "new Labour" Cabinet and altered the balance of power in his favour.

Mr Mandelson enters the Cabinet in the frontline economic post of Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, which, according to persistent Westminster gossip, Mr Brown did not want him to get. Even so, Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson agree on most policy issues and have been given the chance to rebuild their relationship.

Nick Brown, who ran the Chancellor's campaign for the leadership in 1994, is moved away from the centre of power to enable the no-nonsense Ann Taylor to switch from Leader of the House to take charge of the whips' office, whose performance has not entirely satisfied the Prime Minister.

The loyalist Mrs Taylor has built a good relationship with Mr Blair, as has Jack Cunningham, who moves from agriculture to become Minister for the Cabinet Office, the so-called "enforcer" charged with co-ordinating departments and acting as all-purpose government spokesman. Mr Byers, another out-and-out Blairite, becomes Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

spokesman denied yesterday that the Chancellor was being reined in, but that was not how other senior Labour figures saw the shakeup. One said that Mr Brown's "empire-building" had been stopped in its tracks and another that Mr Blair had at last shown he was fully in charge.

In other changes, Margaret Beckett moves from the Trade and Industry Department to succeed Mrs Taylor as Commons Leader. She will also assist Dr Cunningham as a Government spokesman and chair the key Cabinet legislation committee. Mr Strang's job as Transport Minister goes to the Armed Forces Minister John Reid, who does not have Cabinet rank but will attend its meetings.

Several other ministers were sacked last night, including Mark Fisher and Tom Clarke, who leave the Culture Department, and Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister.

But there were promotions for Helen Liddell, who becomes Donald Dewar's number two in Scotland; Estelle Morris, who was expected to become School Standards Minister; John Denham, another moderniser who becomes Mr Darling's deputy; Geoff Hoon and Joyce Quin. Keith Bradley, the third minister to leave the Social Security Department, is to become Deputy Chief Whip.

The Prime Minister is also expected to appoint Lord Falconer, now Solicitor General, to be Dr Cunningham's deputy with Mr Mandelson's old title, Minister Without Portfolio.

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Baroness Jay arrives at No 10 Downing Street yesterday to hear news of her new appointment

Tony Blair's evangelical style, the comparisons that were invited with Mrs Thatcher's transformation of Britain, seem, this morning, like the words of seducer dimly recalled from the intoxicating night before. Now, all passion spent, we are in bed with a Prime Minister whose paunch is showing



Michael Gove ... page 20

For lesser ministers, mere survival was relief enough. "I'm still here!" squawked a delighted Tony Banks to startled MPs yesterday. "Hanging on in there! Holed up in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, with a 'come in and get me, copper' notice on the door"



Matthew Parris ... page 2

The Prime Minister has shown that he is not afraid of the sight of blood, even if it has to be spilt by close allies. The changes, with more to come today in the middle and junior ranks, mark an important stage in the Blairisation of the Government



Peter Riddell ... page 6

Baroness gives Labour a touch of class

James Landale and Alan Hamilton on a leading lady

SHE is the daughter of a former Prime Minister, was once the wife of our man in Washington, and is known in the House of Lords as Posh Spice.

Baroness Jay of Paddington yesterday fulfilled a lifetime of breeding and experience at the highest levels of politics when she was appointed Leader of the House of Lords and Minister for Women.

Known as "an aristocrat of the left" even before she was raised to the peerage in 1992, the eldest daughter of Lord Callaghan of Cardiff has been a high achiever whose successes have been tempered only by an occasionally turbulent private life. Despite a 24-carat Old Labour background, she is a key member of

Tony Blair's inner circle and before the election was a trustee of the controversial blind trust which paid his office expenses.

Born in 1939, she was the eldest of James and Audrey Callaghan's three children. It was a childhood steeped in Labour politics. She followed her parents to meetings and learned to canvass at an early age, while going to Blackheath High School for girls.

She went on to Somerville College, Oxford, where she read politics, philosophy and economics and met Peter Jay, the son of another Labour politician. They married in 1961 when she was 21, which she now admits

was too young. The marriage lasted 19 years and produced three children.

Between 1965 and 1977, she held a series of posts at the BBC. She followed Peter to Washington when he was sent there by *The Times* and later, in 1977, became Ambassador. Lady Jay was much mocked for insisting on calling herself "co-ambassador".

In Washington she met Carl Bernstein, the journalist who had uncovered the Watergate scandal, and had a much-publicised affair in 1979. Bernstein's then pregnant wife, the writer Nora Ephron, gave a thinly fictional account of the affair in her

book, *Heartburn*, in which she described Margaret Jay as "a fairly tall person with a neck as long as an arm and a nose as long as a thumb and you should see her legs, never mind her feet, which are sort of splayed". The book was later made into a film starring Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep.

Although the marriage with Peter Jay collapsed, they remain friends to this day. After the affair with Bernstein ended in 1981, she returned to Britain as a reporter for the BBC's *Panorama* programme. During a series of programmes about Aids, she met and interviewed

Professor Michael Adler, chairman of the National Aids Trust. This led to her becoming director of the Trust and also to her second marriage, to Mr Adler, in 1994.

Almost ten years ago, Lady Jay almost died when she fell through the roof of her holiday home in Cork, southwest Ireland. She plunged 20ft down a flight of stone stairs, broke her pelvis, four ribs and was badly concussed. She spent a month learning to walk again.

At an inch under six foot, Lady Jay is an imposing figure in the Lords where she has been a Health Minister and Deputy Leader since Labour came to power.

Although a popular figure who is Continued on page 2, col 5

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The whole plane is kept in as smoker fails to own up

By RICHARD OWEN AND ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH pilot could face a kidnapping charge after holding his passengers hostage because no one would admit to smoking in the lavatory.

Captain Brian Bliss kept 148 people in their seats for 40 minutes after landing at Malpensa airport in Milan after a smoke detector had been disabled.

But when he called the police to the flight deck of his aircraft they took a dim view of his hard line. The smoker never confessed and walked free while Captain Bliss was detained and released after agreeing to return to Italy for further questioning.

Yesterday lawyers for the British Airways low-cost airline Go were trying to disentangle Captain Bliss. Magistrates will decide whether to prosecute but there



Bliss: may face trial for kidnapping

was little doubt that they would press charges either of kidnapping, which carries an eight-year jail sentence, or of the less serious "violation of the person".

A steward on Flight 127 from Stansted discovered that a passenger had apparently slipped into the lavatory for a

cigarette and used tissue and a cigarette packet to block the smoke detector. The captain asked the culprit to come forward but was greeted with silence.

The airport police said that the captain had over-reacted. "We took the view that the problem — smoking in the aircraft lavatory — was not a serious offence, whereas the action the pilot took to find the culprit was."

A spokeswoman for Go said that most of the passengers had supported Captain Bliss, a pilot with 25 years' experience. "This irresponsible act posed a risk to all passengers and crew. A fire on an aircraft could be catastrophic."

INSIDE New deal on immigration

Up to 30,000 asylum seekers could be given leave to stay in the United Kingdom, clearing the way for a "fairer, faster and firmer" immigration system, the Government said. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, insisted he was not declaring an amnesty for the backlog of 52,000 applicants currently clogging up the system. Page 13

Supermarkets snub Isas

The Government's plans for Individual Savings Accounts (Isas), the tax-free replacement for Peps and Tesas, were placed in jeopardy when two of the biggest supermarkets refused to support the proposals, which are aimed at encouraging millions more people to save. Page 25

Arms for Africa report published

A catalogue of misjudgments, wrong interpretations and slow responses lie at the heart of the report into the arms-for-Africa affair by Sir Thomas Legg QC, but he clears ministers and Whitehall officials of being involved in a conspiracy. Page 15

Racing arrest

Neil Wilkins, senior horse-race starting price reporter for the Press Association, the national news agency, has been arrested by officers from the Metropolitan Police's clubs and vice unit on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud. Page 43

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Home from home is an ideal move for someone in the trade

Wherever he lays his hat, that's his dome. Without Portfolio no longer. Peter Mandelson stalked in at seven minutes past three to no sound beyond the pricking of hair on the backs of 100 MPs' necks.

Dome Questions were scheduled for 3.10 and Mr Mandelson, repositioned as the President of the Board of Trade, has taken his dome there with him, rather in the way that a hermit crab carries its adopted carapace wherever it goes.

Wherever he lays his hat,

that's his bunker, too, for Mr Mandelson takes not just his dome but his enemies in tow. If Mandelson had thought that at the Ministry Without Portfolio it was the office rather than the occupant whom Gordon Prentice (Lab, Fendle) detested, his very first question as President of the Board of Trade ended those hopes. It was from Mr Prentice.

The crisp, bluer-tomorrow-voiced Scottish leftwinger launched in to his most insolent attack yet on Mandelson. Asking about the use of lobby-

ists to promote and secure funding for the Millennium Dome (and receiving no answer), Prentice complained sarcastically that he had "expected a more illuminating answer from the minister who casts such a long shadow". He refused even to call Mandelson "my Rt Hon Friend".

A long shadow indeed. Wherever he lays his hat, there's his shadow. Clare Short's "creature in the dark" irks many in his party. When one Labour backbencher praised the Millennium Expe-

rience as "symbolising something" about the way Britain was going, Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney N), another left-wing critic, nodded in contemptuous irony.

It was a Commons Cabinet debut over which Mr Mandelson will take perverse pleasure. He relishes the role of stage villain. His very first question, on his own side,

having omitted to congratulate him, he received from the Opposition Front Bench the richest of congratulations. For the Tories, Peter Ainsworth told the new Trade and Industry minister that he "certainly knows a great deal about trade".

To all this loathing, Mandelson seemed impervious. He had, after all, moved

into one of the top jobs in Government.

Mr Mandelson looked visibly relieved. For lesser ministers, mere survival was relief enough.

"I'm still here!" squawked a delighted Tony Banks to startled MPs yesterday.

"Hanging on in there!" Holed up in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, with a "come in and get me, copper" notice on the door...

Mr Banks glanced up at the press gallery, anxious that we notice. The Minister for Sport

may be reckoning without the possibility that he is (as he put it) "still there" only because the Prime Minister has forgotten he exists.

Banks's boss, Chris Smith, still Secretary of State, was hiding the unspoken "phew!" more diplomatically.

The threat had passed. Wherever he had laid his hat, this morning that is still his home.

For fun, he took a swipe at the unlucky Mrs Virginia Bottomley, one of the few Tory ex-ministers who bothers to keep up their interest in the

departments they once headed. Asking about the future of the English Tourist Board, Smith's predecessor in office (and former Health Secretary, too) apologised for her muffled speaking voice — result of a recent tangle with "excellent British dentists".

"That was rich, laughed Smith, coming from one who "so savagely cut funds for tourism".

"And dentistry?" shouted one backbench wag.

Poor Mrs Bottomley. Whenever she lays her hat, someone jumps on it.



POLITICAL SKETCH

Mandelson drops title of Trade President

By NICHOLAS WATT, ALASDAIR MURRAY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

PETER MANDELSON has at last achieved his ambition of taking on a "proper" job in charge of a big Whitehall department which will give him the chance to shed his image as a shadowy spin doctor.

But as he moved into the Department of Trade and Industry's plush offices in Victoria Street, he showed that he has lost none of his skill in crafting a favourable image.

A beaming Mr Mandelson announced that he would be dispensing with the title of President of the Board of Trade — which was revived by Michael Heseltine — and would be known as a plain Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. "I have asked the Prime Minister if he would be happy for me to drop the title President," he said. "It's hard work to create prosperity for Britain's hard-working families that I am interested in, not pompous titles."

Tony Blair could hardly have chosen a better position to test his friend's ability as a fully fledged Cabinet Minister. The job pitches Mr Mandelson head on against his apparent nemesis, Gordon Brown — who has made the DTI practically his second home during the past year — and brings him up against the kind of old Labour backbenchers who cannot wait to see him take a fall.

Conservatives claimed that Mr Mandelson's role in charge of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich presents him with a conflict of interest because the dome depends on sponsorship from companies which the Trade and Industry Secretary regulates. Mr Mandelson insisted yesterday that there would be no conflict because he is not personally in charge of raising sponsorship.

Mr Mandelson's arrival at the DTI will certainly lead to a change in style from the Margaret Beckett's year in office, her Presidency was

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any sniping between their two camps.

Mr Mandelson will have to move quickly if he wants to seize back the initiative for the DTI's first big task — the Government's White Paper on Competitiveness which is to be published in the autumn. The Treasury already has a number of its own proposals.

Not all of Mr Mandelson's problems, however, will come from his forced relationship with Mr Brown. He also faces the task of guiding some tricky legislation bequeathed by his predecessor through the

have to learn to deal with the City. The senior minister in the DTI ultimately has sole responsibility for monopolies and mergers cases and Mr Mandelson will need to quickly set out a clear agenda for competition policy to avoid allegations of lobbying influence.

Critics of Mr Mandelson's position as Millennium Dome chief would have a field day if he had to adjudicate on a takeover bid involving a company which had pledged £12 million to sponsor one of the zones inside the Dome.

Mr Mandelson's position is that he neither procures nor negotiates investment for the exhibition. That job is the responsibility of the commercial director Kevin Johnson, who last year joined the New Millennium Experience Company from ISL, a leading sports sponsorship and promotions marketing company which worked on the France World Cup. He heads a team of 10 staff. The NMEC says that neither it nor Mr Mandelson has met any lobbyists in connection with sponsoring the Dome.

One of Mr Mandelson's most contentious duties at the DTI will be regulation of telecommunications. BT, which is ploughing £2 billion into the Millennium Exhibition, yesterday sprang to the new minister's defence.

Houses of Parliament which will provide a real test for his political management skills. The Government's competition Bill, which has been the target for a number of amendments and some articulate opposition from John Redwood for the Tories, has still not completed its passage through the House. Even more challenging will be the need to turn both the minimum wage and trade union policy papers into legislation and guide them through Parliament.

Mr Mandelson will also



James Callaghan with his daughter at her wedding in the House of Commons to Peter Jay in 1961

Labour aristocracy comes to Lords

Continued from page 1

respected for her steady competence, she is considered by some to be a touch austere. Her appointment yesterday won broad backing from peers on all sides of the House where she has the difficult task of steering through Labour's plans to reform the Lords. The Government has yet to come up with a convincing blueprint for a future second chamber once hereditary peers have been expelled.

Lady Jay becomes Leader of the Lords at a critical time. Peers are in rebellious mood in the face of reform of the second

chamber. She will have the difficult task of helping to formulate the reforms and steering them through Lords. At present Labour is committed only to scrapping the sitting and voting rights of peers but is having trouble deciding what shall take their place in a second round of reforms.

For the moment, at least, she will have the support of many peers. Earl Russell, the leading Liberal Democrat peer, said: "I have known her since she was 18. She has got judgment, discretion, forensic skill and an ability to make people do what she asks."

Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, welcomed her to the Upper House, remarking ironically that, as the daughter of Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the last Labour Prime Minister, she was "the final vindication for the hereditary Member".

Lord Richard, who was sacked, promised to remain active on the backbenches, said in a statement: "I am sorry not to have the opportunity to see Lords reform through. I shall now have to earn my living in another way. I wish Baroness Jay well as my successor."

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BLAIR'S NEW CABINET

The full Cabinet after the reshuffle announced by Downing Street:

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for the Civil Service: Tony Blair, 45, salary £102,750 but takes only £90,167 plus MP's salary of £45,068

Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, John Prescott, 50 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, 47 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Robin Cook, 52 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, (£148,850)

Secretary of State for the Home Department, Jack Straw, 51 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for Education and Employment, David Blunkett, 51 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, Margaret Beckett, 55 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Dr Jack Cunningham, 58 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar, 60 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, 52 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary)

Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, 57 (£81,650, takes £45,201 plus MP's salary)

Chief Whip, Ann Taylor, 51 (£81,650, but only takes £45,201, plus MP's salary)

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Chris Smith, 47 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Martin McGuinness, 48 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, 51 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, 52 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Secretary of State for Social Security, Alistair Darling, 44 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus £45,068)

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Nick Brown, 48 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Leader of the Lords and Minister for Women, Baroness Jay of Paddington, 58 (£80,107 but only takes £90,498)

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson, 48 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Byers, 45 (£81,650 but only takes £45,201 plus MP's salary of £45,068)

Not members of Cabinet but will attend Cabinet meetings: Dr John Reid, 51 (£31,981, plus MP's salary)

Captain of the Gardeners-Arms (government chief whip, House of Lords), the Lord Carter, 66 (£53,284)

HELLO

STEPHEN BYERS, 45, educated at Chester City Grammar School and Liverpool Polytechnic, became MP for Walsend in 1992. He lives with his long-term partner, Jan, a lawyer. They have no children.

Job: Blairite Schools Minister who led the drive to improve the nation's numeracy, enters the Cabinet as Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Assets: The annual spending round was effectively abolished by the Chancellor's three-year Comprehensive Spending Review. It means the Chief Secretary's in-tray is much lighter.

Liabilities: The Treasury Minister who cannot add up. Having urged all children to practise basic mathematics for an hour a day, Mr Byers was asked by a radio interviewer to multiply eight by seven. He replied: "I think it is 54."

Quote: On learning the correct answer (56), he promised: "I will spend an hour tomorrow learning my times tables."

PETER MANDELSON 44, went to Hendon County Grammar School and St Catherine's College, Oxford. The MP for Hartlepool since 1992 is a bachelor.

Job: The minister without portfolio now has a portfolio. He is Secretary of State for Trade and Industry having dropped the title President of the Board of Trade revived by Michael Heseltine.

Assets: The arch-Blairite can banish his image as the black prince of political spin and intrigue by making a success of his own department.

Liabilities: The Millennium Dome, which is his project, goes with him to the DTI.

Quote: In a fish and chip shop in his north-east constituency, he said as he pointed at the menu board: "Can I have a pot of that nice avocado mousse?" Mandelson insists the quote is apocryphal.

NICK BROWN, 48, the MP for Newcastle upon Tyne East and Walsend since 1983, was educated at Swatenden Secondary School and Manchester University. He is a bachelor.

Job: moving from Chief Whip, which was outside the Cabinet, to Agriculture Minister in the Cabinet. Still seen as a sideways move.

Assets: Shrewd, hard working, clever, a reputedly good fixer and behind the scenes organiser.

Liabilities: Lost his position at the centre of the Government's web of patronage. As a supporter of Gordon Brown his position as Chief Whip ensured the Chancellor's tentacles stretched into the heart of the Parliamentary party.

Quote: "Liverpool Labour Party is such a mess what we need is a secret agent such as James Bond to sort it out." One minute later Sean Connery walked into his study on a visit to Downing Street to see Gordon Brown.

Margaret Jay, 58, who was made a life peer in 1992, went to Blackheath High School, and then on Oxford where she read PPE. Married for a second time, she has three children.

Job: a keen Blairite she becomes only the second woman Leader of the House of Lords (after Baroness Young) in its most historic phase, with the planned abolition of hereditary peerages. Promoted from Minister of State for Health.

Assets: as daughter of a former Prime Minister (James Callaghan) she has an unequalled political pedigree, which is all-important in the Upper House. She is a safe pair of hands and a fresh face to sell reforms of the House of Lords.

Liabilities: relative newcomer to the House of Lords. A trustee of the secret fund that funded Tony Blair in opposition, which could yet return to haunt the Government.

Quote: "Just call me co-ambassador" when she was married to Peter Jay, our man in Washington in the 1970s.

JOHN REID, 51, the MP for Hamilton North and Bellshill. He attended St Patrick's Senior Secondary School, Coatbridge, and Stirling University. He is a widower with two sons.

Job: Minister for Transport, while not a full member of the Cabinet, will attend Cabinet meetings. He will be responsible for roads and London Underground.

Assets: Friendly, sharp and thorough, with a natural wish to be open. Highly respected by his civil servants, and a natural at self-promotion. A member of Neil Kinnock's kitchen Cabinet.

Liabilities: Effortlessly switched allegiance to Blair's regime.

Quote: "Smokes non-stop. Will have misgivings about Transport as he loved his job as Armed Forces Minister."

Quote: "If children were brought up in an economic jungle one could not be surprised if they behaved like animals," during a debate on the effects of Thatcherism on the young generation in March 1990.

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CABINET RESHUFFLE

Blair admits setbacks in welfare war

Harman and Field are both casualties of a lack of direction, report Alexandra Frean and Nicholas Watt

TONY Blair admitted yesterday that his crusade to reform the welfare state had lost direction as he dismissed the Social Security Secretary Harriet Harman and accepted the resignation of her deputy, Frank Field.

Behind the public tributes to the outgoing ministers, Downing Street made clear that the Prime Minister wanted a clean sweep and a fresh impetus at the top of the Department of Social Security because the tension and "spats" between Ms Harman and Mr Field had hindered the pace of reform.

There was widespread acknowledgment last night that both Ms Harman and Mr Field were casualties of a lack of direction and clarity in the Government's welfare reform programme and a growing unease and anxiety in the Labour Party about how reforms were implemented.

The Labour Government came into power with a very clear statement of intent about reducing welfare dependency and using savings on the social security budget to fund other departments. But it was less clear about what this meant in practice.

The cuts to lone parent benefit and the perceived withdrawal of some disability benefits last year quickly and clearly illustrated that such reforms can hurt the needy very badly and that the needy can squeal very loudly.

There were irreconcilable differences in style too and frustration at the apparent slowness of the pace of welfare reform. Mr Field, a campaigner against poverty for 30 years, remained firmly wedded to the idea that individuals should build up self-reliance through making contributions into state or privately run

insurance and pension funds. Ms Harman preferred to consider more targeting of through policies such as "affluence testing", which would remove universal benefits from the better off.

Mr Field also seemed at times to be on a moral crusade of almost biblical connotations, while Ms Harman appeared to be more grounded in feminist ideology.

While Mr Darling's appointment will by no means spell an end to welfare reform, it is bound to mark a new direction, with an emphasis on implementation, rather than rhetoric. Fears of an impending recession may, however, make it difficult for him to implement many of the key aspects of its welfare to work programme until there is a pick up in the jobs market.

Ms Harman left office graciously last night, stressing how proud she had been to take part in the modernisation of the Labour party and to have introduced major reforms to improve the economic and social well-being of families, lone parents and the poorest pensioners.

"There are many politicians who can work really hard for 15 years and just because of circumstances have achieved nothing. I have worked hard for 15 years and have helped achieve a lot. I am lucky to be in that situation."

"I am very proud for what I have been able to achieve for women and families, for recognising childcare and the concerns of working women and for helping the poorest pensioners," she said.

She added that she was now looking forward to taking time to reflect and to a holiday.

Both Ms Harman and Mr Field are expected to remain active in the field of welfare reform from the back benches.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said: "The Prime Minister was not in a position to do that. The Prime Minister was very warm to Harriet Harman, but he felt that she needed a break."

Mr Blair, who reportedly offered Mr Field the job as Jack Cunningham's deputy, had no intention of agreeing to his request to promote him to Ms Harman's job because Downing Street believes he has simply failed to deliver on welfare reform.

However, Mr Blair ended his meeting with Mr Field, which was described as "amicable", on a positive note. Downing Street officials made clear that the Prime Minister asked Mr Field to advise him informally on welfare reform. The two men agreed that Mr Field was happier with ideas than with the detailed departmental work of implementing policy.

The Tories claimed that the departure of both Harriet Harman and Frank Field from the Department of Social Security Reform would spell the end of welfare reform.

Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "If Mr Field came undone it was in trying to match the bold rhetoric of the Prime Minister with bold proposals for reform. It is now clear that Mr Blair used the reputation of a good man in an attempt to give his Government credibility on the key issue of welfare reform."

Martin Barnes, head of welfare rights at the Child Poverty Action Group — which Mr Field used to lead — also expressed concern about the future direction of welfare reform following Mr Field's departure, but welcomed Mr Darling's appointment. "We hope for a continued commitment to tackle child poverty."



Harriet Harman leaves her office at Richmond House yesterday after being sacked as Social Security Secretary in Mr Blair's reshuffle

Taylor's post is first for a woman

BY ANDREW PIERCE

ANN TAYLOR broke down one of the last remaining male barricades yesterday when she became the first woman to be Government Chief Whip.

The eye-catching appointment as the parliamentary party's most important backroom fixer and disciplinarian was one of the biggest surprises in the reshuffle. It confirmed Mrs Taylor's reputation as a hard-working, straight-

talking MP. The football-loving Mrs Taylor will head an office renowned for rugby club jokes, stiff drinks and the black art of political arm-twisting. It was a role immortalised by Ian Richardson, in *House of Cards*, in which he played the machiavellian Francis Urquhart.

While loyal to Tony Blair the new Chief Whip, who will have Cabinet status for the first time, will wield considerable influence behind the scenes, is on the right of the party and is not a personal

friend. Mrs Taylor, as Leader of the House, dropped some of the more radical plans for modernisation of the Commons after being attacked by traditionalists.

Mrs Taylor's appointment has once again left the Conservatives looking out of date. It was only a year before the last election that Jacqui Lait, a former businesswoman, became the first woman Tory whip. She has been MP for Bolton West since 1974 and is married with two teenage children.



Ann Taylor: fixer

GOODBYE

HARRIET HARMAN, 47, MP for Camberwell & Peckham, educated at St Paul's Girls' School and York University. Married with three children.

Job: Social Security Secretary charged with overhaul of the welfare system. Judged an abject failure. Sacked.

Assets: has been regarded as a good communicator. Very loyal to Blair. Willing to be unpopular and to take a stand at difficult times such as the lone-parent benefit row last year.

Liabilities: Out of her depth intellectually, inflexible, and prone to be charmless and personally prickly. Neurotic about her press image.

Quote: discussing her domestic life: "Women carry an unfair burden at home because of male absenteeism. I am the handy one; I do the fuses and mend the too seat when it falls off. I pay the bills and rates, although I'm not terribly efficient at it."



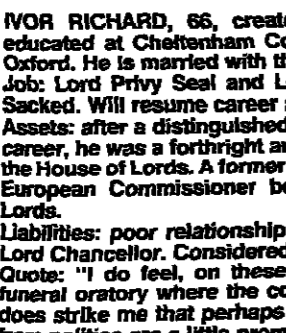
DAVID CLARK, 59, the MP for South Shields since 1979, educated at Manchester and Sheffield universities. Married with one daughter.

Job: Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster responsible for Freedom of Information and Millennium Bug. Sacked and will return to back benches.

Assets: painstaking, worthy and a champion of freedom of information.

Liabilities: old Labour. Weak, out of his depth, and waffly. Irritated Blair by mounting a doomed media campaign to keep his job. Humiliated in the Commons when he was forced to apologise to MPs for the leak of a document on freedom of information.

Quote: when challenged about a spate of stories predicting he was for the axe, he said: "This is a clear attempt to smear my name and I know exactly who is behind it."



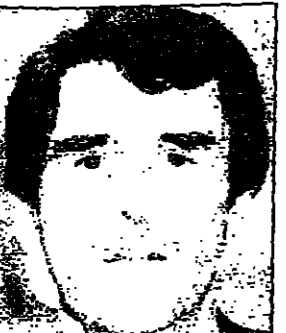
IVOR RICHARD, 66, created a life peer in 1990, was educated at Cheltenham College and Pembroke College, Oxford. He is married with three children.

Job: Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords. Sacked. Will resume career as a backbench peer.

Assets: after a distinguished legal, political and diplomatic career, he was a forthright and uncompromising speaker in the House of Lords. A former government minister, he was a European Commissioner before going to the House of Lords.

Liabilities: poor relationship with Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor. Considered too relaxed in his approach.

Quote: "I do feel, on these occasions, it's a bit like the funeral oratory where the corpse has the right of reply. It does strike me that perhaps the rumours of my retirement from politics are a little premature, if I may say so."



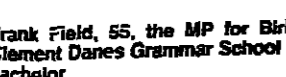
GAVIN STRANG, 55, the MP for Edinburgh East and Musselburgh, educated at Edinburgh and Cambridge Universities. Elected in 1970. He is married with children.

Job: Minister for Transport responsible for the roads review. Worked with his boss, John Prescott, on last week's transport White Paper. Prescott omitted to praise Strang when he unveiled the document. Sacked.

Assets: inconspicuous, pleasant and easy-going.

Liabilities: loathed by Prescott, who has been trying to oust him for six months when stories predicting his demise first appeared. He was regarded as indecisive, panicky and inarticulate at the dispatch box.

Quote: "I don't want to make a meal of this," when challenged at the dispatch box by Tory MPs about his statistics during a debate on BSE when he was shadow agriculture spokesman in the last Parliament.



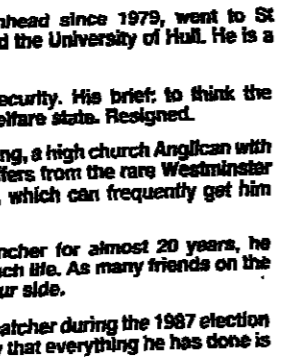
Frank Field, 55, the MP for Birkenhead since 1979, went to St Clement Danes Grammar School and the University of Hull. He is a bachelor.

Job: Minister of State for Social Security. His brief: to think the unthinkable in the overhaul of the welfare state. Resigned.

Assets: uncompromising, hard-working, a high church Anglican with quick wit and independent mind. Suffers from the rare Westminster disease of transparency of honesty, which can frequently get him into trouble.

Liabilities: too academic. A backbencher for almost 20 years, he never made the transition to frontbench life. As many friends on the Tory benches as he has on the Labour side.

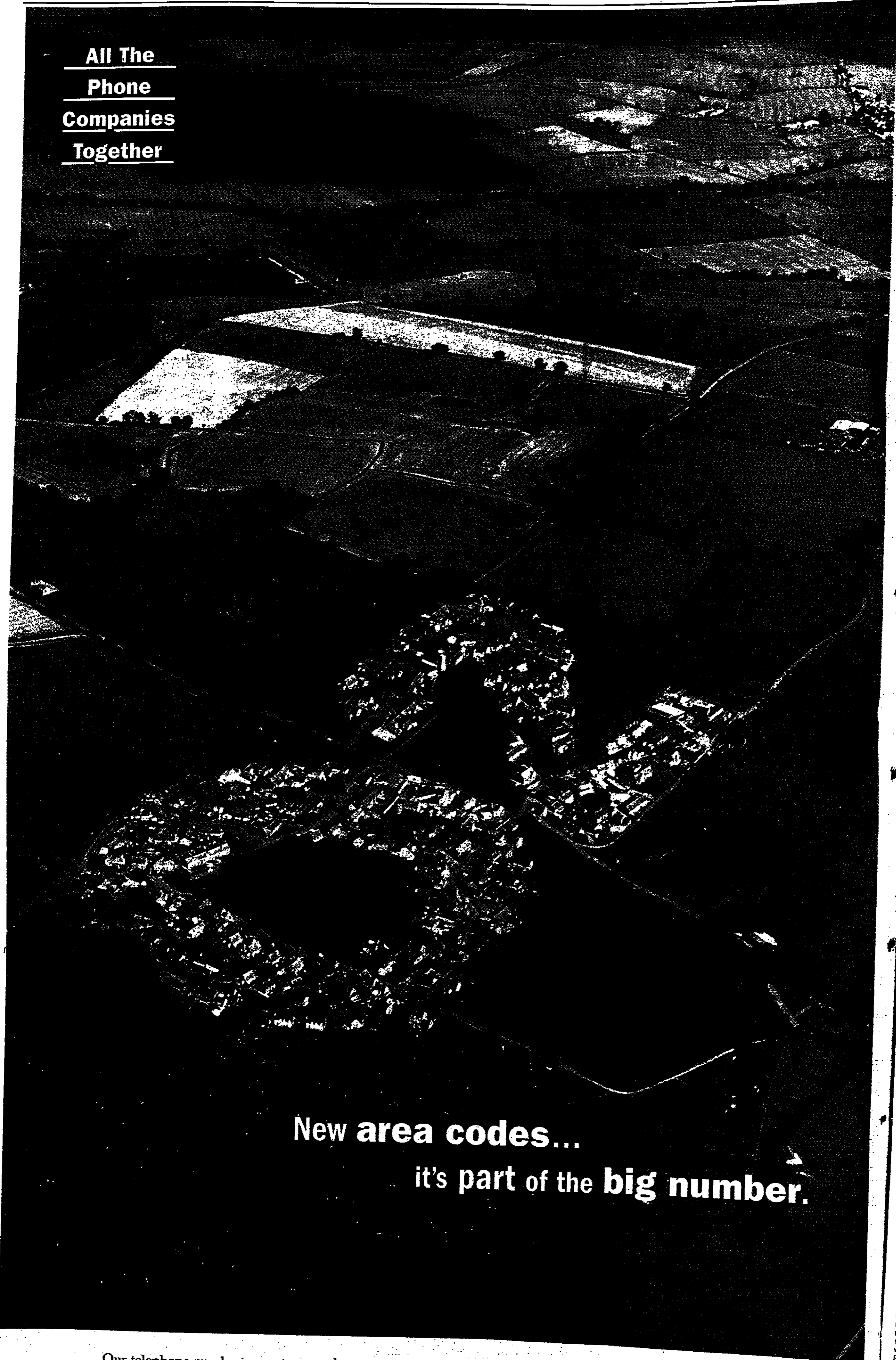
Quote: said about him by Margaret Thatcher during the 1987 election campaign: "A good man, — it is a pity that everything he has done is wrong."



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it's part of the **big number.**

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Philip Webb

Prime Minister

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No one spared as Blair bloods himself

Philip Webster analyses how the Prime Minister put friendships aside in a moment of ruthlessness



Tony Blair confiding in Gordon Brown before the election. Last week Mr Brown was largely in the dark

WHEN the time came, Tony Blair shunned his two greatest political allies and was utterly ruthless. Those who thought he might balk at the prospect of blood were proved hopelessly wrong.

Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson have been an integral part of most of Mr Blair's key decisions since well before the title new Labour was invented. But on Sunday, when Mr Blair sat down with a handful of close advisers to plan his changes, they were elsewhere.

Mr Mandelson visited his mother for lunch. Friends found him unusually ill-informed. Similarly Mr Brown was not invited; he said the reshuffle was a matter for Mr Blair.

The exclusion of the two men was deliberate. The Prime Minister has become increasingly impatient with their failure to get on. In spite of attempts at reconciliation their camps have continued to brief against each other — and over recent weeks this split over into reshuffle speculation with a spate of stories suggesting that Mr Brown did not want Mr Mandelson to be the Cabinet Office "enforcer" and others indicating the jobs that the Minister without Portfolio would regard as suitable. On

Sunday Mr Blair wanted them out of the way. He had thought about the changes for some weeks; he was not keen to be talked out of them.

Mr Blair and Mr Brown are still close. They meet alone and their disagreements are thrashed out between themselves. The Prime Minister's official spokesman went out of his way yesterday to make plain that the two were working together more than ever, that the reshuffle was a joint effort, and in no sense a move to rein in Mr Brown.

But the Prime Minister's patience has been strained this year by the activities of the so-called Brownites. The publication of the biography of Mr Brown by Paul Routledge angered Mr Blair and outraged his close circle. The description of Mr Brown as "psychologically flawed" came from someone purported to be close to the Prime Minister. Mr Blair was equally annoyed that Nick Brown, the Chief Whip and long-time ally of the Chancellor, should have assisted in the book.

The relationship between Chief Whip and Prime Minister is vital to the success of the Government. Usually the two would plot the reshuffle together. But Mr Blair wanted to move Nick Brown. He

needed someone there who would represent his interests ahead of all others. He, too, was not invited to Sunday's discussions, although he advised Mr Blair on lower-rank appointments. So on Sunday afternoon in No 10 — as a diversion the press were led to believe they were at Chequers — Mr Blair sat down in his office with Jonathan Powell, his chief of staff, Sally Morgan, his political secretary, Anji Hunter, his personal adviser, Bruce Grocott, his parliamentary aide, and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, to prepare a reshuffle that was to turn out as Blairite as anyone could have imagined. For weeks Mr Campbell had refused to brief in any way about the reshuf-

file. That did not stop a welter of stories suggesting that Stephen Byers, promoted yesterday to Chief Secretary, would miss out and that Nick Brown would not be moved. None of those reports had been inspired by Mr Campbell or anyone else at No 10. So there may have been a special steel in Mr Blair's soul when he came to decide their fate.

The decision to shift Nick Brown stunned all his colleagues in the Whips' Office and many Labour MPs. And one senior MP yesterday hazarded a guess that Mr MGBurn's chances had been dealt a fatal blow by whoever was pushing his cause. Even so Mr Blair will put him in the Cabinet at the next opportunity.

When it came to considering Mr Mandelson, the Prime Minister took a calculated gamble. Mr Brown, like Mr Mandelson himself as it turned out, wanted the former Minister without Portfolio to run a department. The Department of Trade and Industry would not have been Mr Brown's choice. But the two men will now have to work closely together and Mr Blair

may have reasoned that that may be the best way of getting a once-warm relationship back on the rails.

On Sunday night Mr Blair consulted John Prescott, his deputy, and brought Mr Brown up to date. Mr Brown accepted the Nick Brown move and Mr Blair happily agreed that he should come into the Cabinet as Agriculture Minister to take charge of negotiations on British beef.

Gavin Strang and David Clark had been expected to go. Harriet Harman, according to Mr Blair's spokesman yesterday, needed a "breathing space" after a tough two years and was also out, as surprisingly was Lord Richard, the leader of the Lords.

Mr Blair, after making the painful decisions, was ready to show compassion. He decided to spare them the ordeal of walking up Downing Street in full media glare. He went to his Commons office and spoke to all four. Dr Clark on the telephone, the rest face to face. In 1997 he was under an obligation to appoint most of the old Shadow Cabinet. He was ready to announce the first truly Blair Cabinet.

Friends from the North rule the South

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

STEPHEN BYERS, the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is one of Tony's Friends from the North — a key member of the coterie of northeastern Labour MPs rising to the top of the Parliamentary Labour Party under Tony Blair.

Peter Mandelson, the other member of the 1992 intake who was promoted to the Cabinet yesterday, is in Hartlepool. Mr Byers is a short car journey away in Wallsend.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister who was widely expected to be elevated yesterday, will have to wait until next time. He is the MP for Darlington.

All three men are in their early forties; another similarity they share with the Prime Minister. The also all have constituencies in the North East.

The new Chief Secretary is not exactly working class. His father was a radar technician in the RAF and he attended grammar school before going on to polytechnic.

He joined the Labour Party in 1974 and threw himself into politics with a single-mindedness that has become one of his traits.

With Ann Taylor, the Shadow Education Secretary, criticised for failing to land enough blows to John Patten, the Tory Education Secretary, it was the time for Mr Byers to come to prominence. He memorably quoted John Ruskin against Mr Patten. "Conceit may puff a man up but it can never prop him up."

After Mr Blair's accession his progress accelerated and he survived the embarrassment of being unmasked as the source of a story, at an off-the-record fish and chip supper at the Blackpool Labour Party conference, that Labour planned to sever its links with the unions.

Mr Byers, who was promoted from Schools Minister, beat Mr Milburn by a whisker to the post amid reports that Mr Milburn was the Chancellor's favoured candidate. Mr Blair wants Mr Milburn to see through his work at the Department of Health.

But the Prime Minister told Mr Byers he sees him as having a crucial role in seeing through the new structure created by the Comprehensive Spending Review. Mr Byers will also have an important role in helping the Chancellor in developing relations with the City.

Farmers ready for fresh fight

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

NICK BROWN inherits a huge amount of unfinished business as the new Agriculture Minister and a deeply demoralised farming community in the wake of the BSE crisis.

He has no knowledge of agriculture, which is not necessarily a disadvantage, having represented the urban constituency of Newcastle upon Tyne East (to which Wallsend was added last year) for 15 years.

The 49-year-old is reputed to be a quick learner, and he will need to be if he is to master a highly technical portfolio with notorious pitfalls.

On the face of it, Mr Brown will be on an even tighter financial leash than his predecessor. Agriculture was one of the few departments to have its budget cut back over the next three years under the recent spending review. That said, his close relationship with the Chancellor of the Exchequer — rumoured to be one reason why the Prime Minister wanted him moved from Chief Whip — could prove an asset in the competition for Treasury cash.

Ben Gill, the president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "With plunging farm incomes affecting every farmer and grower in the country, I will be pressing the minister for urgent action on all possible fronts. Much of farming's difficulty can be placed at the door of the strong pound. This is an issue which the whole Government must address as a matter of urgency."

At the top of Mr Brown's in-tray will be the still fraught negotiations with the rest of the European Union to get the 28-month-old ban on exports of British beef lifted. Jack Cunningham was successful in the case of Northern Ireland, but Mr Brown faces a tough battle to win the support of a majority of other EU member states for a wider relaxation.

After the summer recess, Mr Brown will be plunged into negotiations on Agenda 2000, the proposals for reform of the EU's profligate high-cost common agricultural policy. Decisions are also awaited on measures to control tuberculosis in cattle, and on a possible easing of Britain's anti-rabies laws.

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£600,000 house raffle collapses in a heap

A COMPETITION to raffle a £600,000 house, announced last year in a blaze of publicity, has collapsed in farce and mystery with its main organiser going to ground.

The end of a housewife's dream has left hundreds of entrants who paid £10 for the chance to win the 13-room Edwardian house in Oxford wondering what has happened to their stake money.

Grace Trehan, who devised the scheme to sell the home she had lived in for four years, was unavailable for comment last night. Her last contact telephone number had apparently been changed and a woman appointed to handle publicity said she had broken ties with the competition in March.

An announcement of the result promised in *The Times* yesterday did not materialise. Instead, a two-paragraph statement sent to the *Oxford Mail* explained that so few entrants had come forward that the raffle had become void under Rule 1(h) of the contest rules.

The statement emphasised

Mystery over entrants' stake money as contest to win a home for £10 is cancelled, reports Helen Johnstone

that no money had been kept by the promoters, although entrants had earlier been told they would not receive their money back if the competition did not go ahead. Mrs Trehan had set up the competition after persuading the Swiss property company Niedermann to buy the house and then raffle it. Mrs Trehan said that any surplus to £600,000 would go to charities, particularly those helping the homeless, after administration costs had been recovered.

Mrs Trehan, who was not to be on the panel of judges, had said she hoped to raise £32,500 for charity. The future of the house, with its five bathrooms, two newly fitted kitchens, grand reception area and walled garden containing a waterfall and fountain, was equally uncertain.

She had said that she wanted

to see the house she loved go to somebody who really needed it. At least 60,000 entrants were required to make the competition a success but the organisers admitted it had attracted fewer than 1,170.

When it was announced last summer, hopefuls were asked to pay £105. They also had to explain in 50 to 75 words why they wanted to win. After the initial deadline for the competition passed earlier this year, the stake was slashed to £10 meaning 60,000 entrants rather than 6,500 had to be found.

A new deadline was set for June 30 and Mrs Trehan expressed confidence that enough people would be keen to invest. An earlier statement from a London firm of solicitors had confirmed that the competition had been structured to avoid having to comply with the Lotteries and

Amusements Act 1976. Derrick Burns, deputy chief inspector for the Gaming Board of Great Britain, yesterday confirmed that it had found the ideal get-out clause by including the section asking entrants to explain why they needed the house. "That is how they got around it. It is the outcome depends to a substantial degree on skill and so it is not a lottery."

Chris Allen, one participant from Oxford, who had sent off £10 in May, said last night: "Suddenly everything seemed to go a bit incognito." She said that she would write off the stake money, adding: "I knew it was a big chance I was taking. It was a case of nothing ventured, nothing gained."

A property consultant, Harry St John, who had earlier raised doubts about the its likely success said yesterday: "I hate to say I told you so. I think the idea of getting 60,000 people to buy a ticket was beyond comprehension. For all the time the good lady has wasted, she could have sold her house six times over."



Mr Stewart, who became a roadsweeper on retiring

Sweeper takes a new broom to This Is Your Life

By PAUL WILKINSON

CYNICS might suggest that, when a street sweeper becomes the subject for Michael Aspel and his big red book on *This Is Your Life*, the 43-year-old television show really has run out of star stories to tell.

But in a *People's Britain* with "classless honours", the programme's producers say an ordinary person is just as interesting as a pop star, actor or politician. So step forward Fred Stewart, "lengthman" for Heslington Parish Council, York.

Mr Stewart, 80, caught the show's attention when he was appointed MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to village life. He has lived in Heslington with his wife, Gladys, 78, for 32 years, and volunteered to be street cleaner when he retired from the former Rowntree factory 15 years ago.

His duties meant walking a six-mile route every working day. He said: "When Michael Aspel passed me the

red book, I felt proud but terribly nervous. To be honest I didn't know what all the fuss is about. One minute you're just a roadsweeper, the next you're somebody."

David Pearcy, a former chairman of the parish council who nominated him to be appointed MBE, said: "He always cheers up all the people in the almshouses and has helped some of the ladies when they've fallen."

Mr Stewart also won the Yorkshire and Humberside roadsweeper of the year award in 1996 and was runner-up last year. Now retired again, he still visits the elderly when they are ill. He said: "What I've learned is always be nice and always have a smile. It's just as easy to be nice as to be nasty."

A spokesman for *This Is Your Life* said: "It was an interesting story and we thought he would catch people's imaginations." The show will be broadcast on the BBC in the autumn.

Inmate 'was given farewell beating'

By DEBORAH COLCUTT

A TEENAGER was subjected to humiliating and violent abuse by staff on his last day at a youth remand centre, a court was told yesterday.

Carlos Pulgarin, 18, had been on long-term remand at Feltham Young Offender Institute, southwest London. Three officers deny ten charges of false imprisonment and common assault.

Nicholas Jones, for the prosecution, told Isleworth Crown Court that Mr Pulgarin had finished his lunchtime shift as a server in the dining room when one of the centre's staff, Michael Armstrong, told him: "You're going to get it today."

Mr Pulgarin, who is half Colombian, was allegedly put in an armlock by Mr Armstrong and another officer, Christopher Drabble, and dropped head first into a tray of gravy and then a pot of mashed potato.

The two officers were said to have been joined by Jeremy Hyde, carrying a set of handcuffs which they used to secure Mr Pulgarin's left wrist to a gate. He was hit across the shins and legs with a pool cue, after which Mr Armstrong soaked him with a fire extinguisher and flung back the gate, pinning him against the wall.

Mr Pulgarin was then repeatedly struck in the stomach and testicles and had pool balls thrown at his lower legs, the court was told.

"He was eventually freed, but he had been subjected to a very violent attack," Mr Jones said.

Mr Drabble, 26, from Stanwell, Surrey; Mr Armstrong, 38, from Sunbury, Surrey; and Mr Hyde, 39, from Eastcote, northwest London, all deny the charges. The trial continues.

Paxman signs four-year BBC deal

By CAROL MIDDLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY PAXMAN was named yesterday as the new presenter of Radio 4's *Start The Week* after signing a "golden handcuffs" deal that will keep him at the BBC until 2002.

The agreement came as a relief to BBC news executives who feared that Mr Paxman was about to defect to ITV to present its new current affairs magazine programme *60 Minutes*.

Mr Paxman, 48, who was understood to have been frustrated by a lack of opportunities at the BBC, accepted the offer to step into the job vacated by Melvyn Bragg after being courted by James Boyle, the Radio 4 Controller. He will continue to present BBC2's *Newsnight* from Tuesday to Thursday. According to a BBC insider, his contract is worth about £1 million over four years.

Mr Paxman's aggressive interviewing style is known to be disliked by Sir John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, although it won him a Royal Television Society Award this year. Judges were impressed by his interview with Michael Howard, then the Home Secretary, in which Mr Paxman asked the same question 14 times.

Yesterday Mr Paxman said he was thrilled to be continuing at *Newsnight*. "Of course I thought about moving elsewhere, but there is nowhere else on television that presents the same opportunity, day in day out, to get to grips with current events," he said.

"As for *Start The Week*, Melvyn Bragg has turned the programme into an unmissable Monday morning *Bloody Mary*. I hope I can fill his shoes."

Rastas forced to change their tune

By A CORRESPONDENT

FIRST there was new Labour with its spin-doctors, pagers and image consultants. Now there is new Rasta. The dreadlocked followers of Emperor Haile Selassie celebrated his birthday last week by entering the world of Babylonian bureaucracy with the chant of "organise and centralise".

They held a week-long camp at a farm in Herefordshire to discuss how to engage in materialism. Elders from their worldwide headquarters at Binghi House, Jamaica, have flown in to ensure that a Rastafarian Economic Development Agency is set up in England with a finance committee to administer it.

Ras Bongo Time, High Priest of the Order of the Nyahbinghi, said: "We need to come together to strengthen our economic structure to be of benefit to the children coming up. The idea is that everyone will contribute £1 a day that will go into an account to benefit economic development projects both national and international." The Nyahbinghi are re-



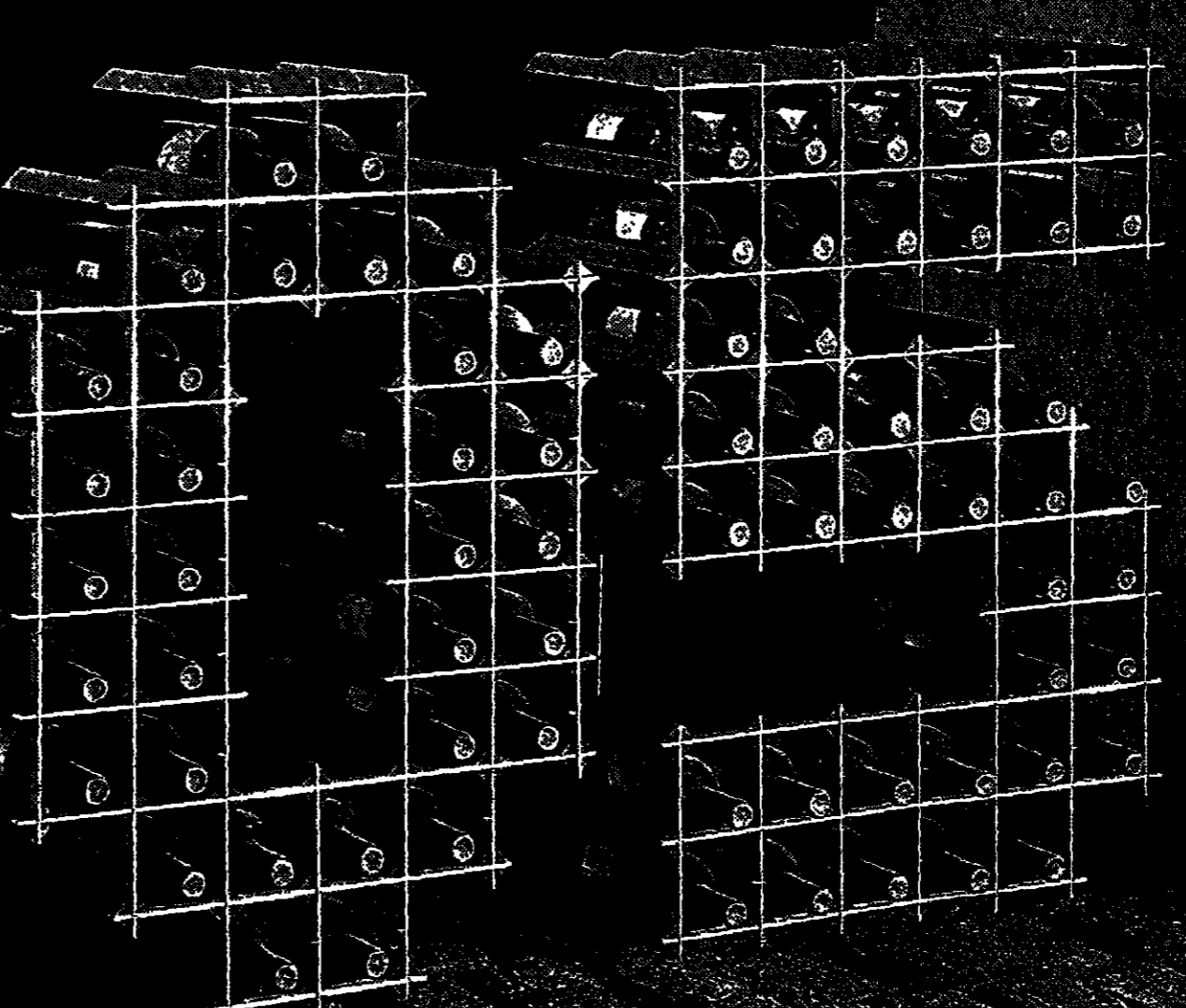
Ras Bongo Time: thinks finances need a revamp

garded as the most orthodox of all the Rasta groupings, living free from animal products and alcohol. Ras Amari Naphtali, a spokesman, said: "It is always a contentious argument, but the call has gone out from the elders that we must not just talk about our goals, we have to achieve them. We have to be more centralised, more organised."

The top priority for the new economic development agency will be the education of children, but funds may also be sent to help with international projects.

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Conmen netted £6m from bogus bank

Simon de Bruxelles reports on a scam to defraud Continental investors

A TEAM of conmen from the Continent defrauded investors of £6 million by running a bogus bank in a main shopping street.

Peter Tuegel, a German, and Sebastiano Saia, an Italian, who set themselves up in what had once been a genuine bank branch in Torquay and offered loans in return for an "arrangement fee", were yesterday convicted of fraud and conspiracy charges at the end of a six-month trial at Bristol Crown Court that cost £2 million.

A second German, Gerhard Martens, believed by the Serious Fraud Office to have been the mastermind behind the scam, changed his plea to guilty at the start of the trial. All three will be sentenced at a later date.

The bogus Banc Europe employed 12 members of staff and operated a bureau de change to complete the illusion. Martens arranged for the word "bank" to be cut in stone above the front door. He lured investors with boasts that his bank had vast assets, Bristol Crown Court was told. The truth was less impressive: the bank's total assets amounted to \$300 in a New York bank account.

But over two years the three men managed to accumulate more than £6.7 million in fees from unsuspecting clients, many of whom were financially ruined. Saia, a former com-



Tuegel and Saia set up the bogus bank in Torquay

modity broker linked to the Calabrian Mafia, claimed to represent a syndicate of Italian politicians offering to sell lira at bargain prices.

The jury of eight men and four women found Tuegel, 51, guilty of two counts of conspiracy to defraud and Saia, also 51, guilty of one count of conspiracy to defraud. Martens, 39, admitted two counts of conspiracy to defraud and one of obtaining property by deception. The jury returned unanimous verdicts after five days of deliberation. The judge, Mr Justice Langley, commended the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police for their "skilful and professional" investigation.

Earlier, Francis Gilbert, QC, for the prosecution, had said that most of the victims were wealthy German and

that their victims were "like moths to a flame". One attracted they were "unable to escape until destroyed".

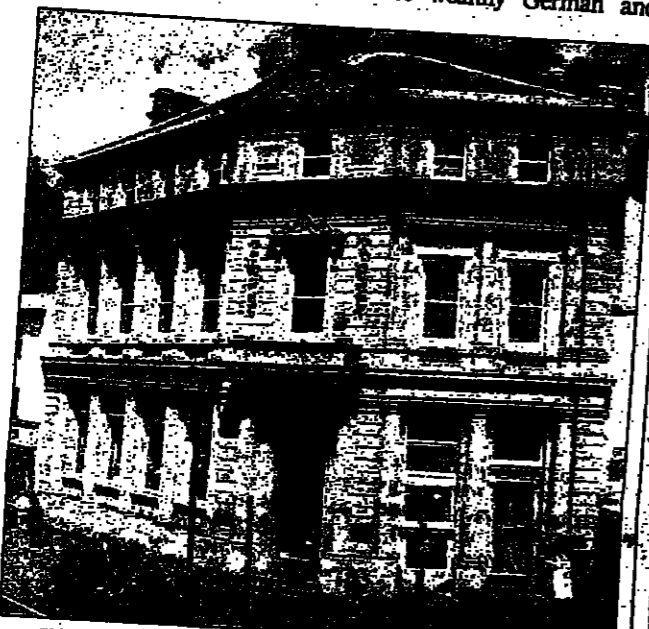
After the trial, a Serious Fraud Office investigator, Stephen Myers, said: "These were convincing and conniving conmen. They looked and acted the part and selected their victims carefully. It is not difficult to see how this gang fooled people - they ran a very professional outfit."

"They would select soft targets in Germany such as entrepreneurs with little investing experience. Many of the victims they selected were chosen because they knew they would become bankrupt and then be able to do little."

During the three-year investigation, the 35 detectives and SFO investigators collected a million documents and 1,000 witness statements, mainly from foreign investors. The inquiries covered 22 countries, of which officers visited 14, including the United States, Canada and South Africa.



Police outside the conmen's headquarters, which had previously housed a genuine branch of the TSB



The "Banc Europe" operated from this building

Fast foodie catches thief on night run

BY MARK HENDERSON

A LONG night took an unexpected course for the chef Marco Pierre White when he arrived home from work during a burglary at his flat. As the burglar fled from the back door, Mr White decided to make use of his former skills as a cross-country runner and gave chase.

For a mile from Knightsbridge to Chelsea, the started burglar, Glen Banks, 29 and slim-built, could not shake off the three-star Michelin chef, aged 35 and weighing 15 stone. Banks dropped his haul in the street but still the chef kept gaining ground and alerted officers from a passing police car to join the chase.

Banks was detained a short distance away, sweating profusely and heavily out of breath, a court was told yesterday as Mr White was praised for his courage. Unknown to him, Banks was a heroin user with a record including firearms offences.

He had stolen property worth £20,000 after he noticed an open window at Mr White's flat in Pavilion Road last Saturday morning. His haul included clothing, jewellery, two sets of car keys, three cameras, and handbags and sunglasses belonging to Mr White's girlfriend, Mati Conejero. At 3.55am, the couple arrived at the flat to find the lights on. Peter Zinner, for the prosecution,



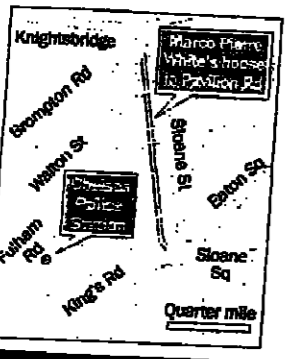
White: he chased the burglar for a mile

told Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court: "They were alarmed, and Miss Conejero unlocked the door as loudly as possible to alert the intruder and allow him to escape. That had the desired effect."

"Mr White realised that the premises had been burgled and, very bravely you may think, he went out into the street to confront the defendant. A hot pursuit continued and, on the way, Mr Banks dropped the bag in the street as he was aware that Mr White was making good ground."

After his arrest, the bag of stolen items was recovered and Banks, from Fulham, was found to have some items still on him. He pleaded guilty to burglary charges and was sent for sentence to Southwark Crown Court. He was denied bail.

Mr White, a former Yorkshire schoolboy running champion, runs prestigious restaurants such as the Oak Room and the Criterion. Banks has served sentences for burglary, robbery and shotgun offences. His lawyer, Robert Roscoe, agreed that "were it not for the diligence of Mr White in pursuing him, he might have got away without having any contact with the persons concerned".



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Wheelchair traveller is bound for Australia

A YOUNG woman who suffers from cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair is planning a ten-week trip around Australia.

Sarah Henley, 23, has scraped together the money to pay for herself and three carers to follow an itinerary that includes Melbourne, Sydney, Ayers Rock and the Great Barrier Reef, where "it would be nice to swim". Miss Henley, who lives as independently as possible with a carer in a two-bedroom flat in southwest London, said: "I wanted to be like my personal assistants and my sister, Rachel, who have all backpacked. I can't really walk or stand for very long, so this is breaking new ground. "Backpacking for me will have several difficulties. At home I have a hoist to get me into the bath and into bed, but since we will be staying in hostels, I won't have those facilities." She said that travelling was "not something the disabled do. It will be an experience. I have always said I want to be treated as much as I can as an able-bodied person."



Sarah Henley says she wants to be treated as much as possible as able-bodied

Inquiry into paedophile freed to attack again

MEP queries why authorities were not alerted, writes Helen Johnstone

AN INVESTIGATION was under way last night into how a British soldier who raped and attempted to murder a child while serving in Germany was freed to return to Britain, where he attacked two girls.

The attacks came three years after Robert Lynch was released from a German psychiatric hospital in 1994 for crimes carried out while he was a lance corporal in the Ordnance Corps.

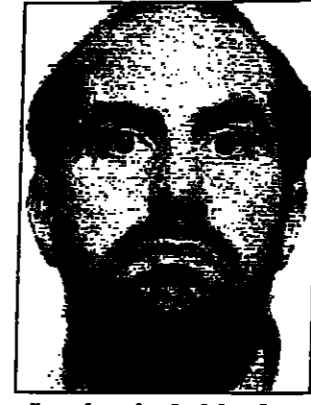
If Lynch, 34, had been repatriated while still serving his sentence, he would have gone to Broadmoor. But because he was deported after serving four years of a nine-year sentence, there was nothing the German authorities could do when he decided to return to Gosport, Hampshire, where he had grown up.

Lynch, described by a judge as very dangerous, was jailed for life at Winchester Crown Court on Friday. Yesterday,

Roy Perry, Conservative MEP for Wight and Hampshire South, began what he said was an urgent investigation into the case. He is contacting the European Commission and the Foreign Office to find out why the British authorities were not alerted to Lynch's past. Mr Perry said regulations may not have been properly observed, or may need to be altered.

Lynch was sentenced on two counts of false imprisonment of two girls aged 12 and 10, and one charge of indecent assault on the younger girl. Lynch, from Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, denied a charge of attempted rape on the ten-year-old, which was accepted by the court.

Christopher Parker, for the prosecution, said Lynch grabbed the girls last December as they walked along a poorly lit footpath after collecting some carol books from the local church. He later admit-



Lynch: seized girls after sex attacks in Germany

ted that he wanted to buy their underwear.

The court was told that the younger sister bit Lynch through his coat and both screamed hysterically, alerting people near by, who called the police. The older girl ran into the road to flag down motorists, but the younger girl was still imprisoned by Lynch, who sexually assaulted her.

Mr Parker said two motorists grabbed the attacker and freed the girl. Lynch escaped but was arrested at his home

where police also found three carrier bags full of children's underwear.

He said Lynch, a double glazing canvasser, was ordered to be detained in a psychiatric hospital for nine years by a German court in 1990 after sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl and raping an 11-year-old girl. Both had been left unconscious.

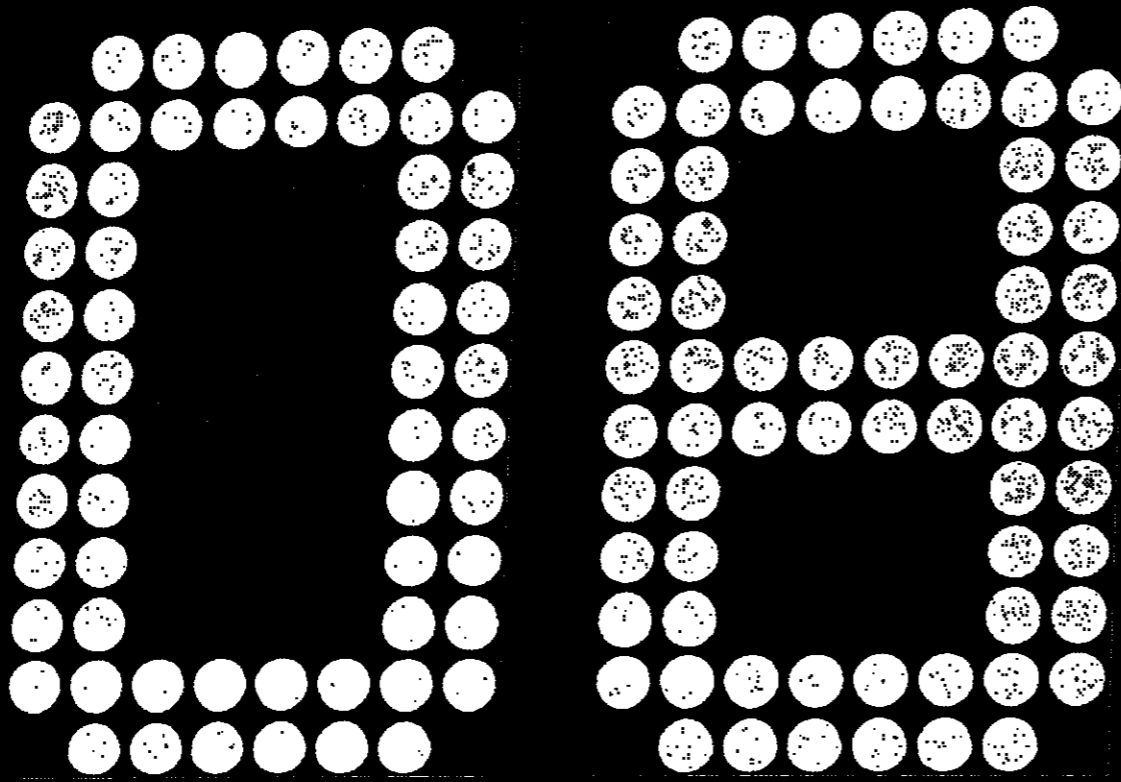
Bruce Maddick, for Lynch, said his client recognised he had a terrible affliction. While in the German hospital he had been seen by people from Broadmoor, but had not been sent there.

Judge Martin Tucker, QC, said he presented a very grave danger to young children and must be locked up. He added: "Those girls deserve commendations for having shown great presence of mind and bravery."

After the hearing the girls' mother said she had not known about his previous history. "I am very relieved he has been locked up for life; he deserved it. It is a small comfort to know he will not get out of prison again."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Diana crash car 'had faulty brakes'

The Mercedes in which Diana, Princess of Wales, died was hard to drive and had erratic brakes, according to its former driver, who said that the chauffeur at the time of the crash should never have been allowed behind the wheel. Olivier Lafaye, a former employee of the Etoile Limousine company that supplied the Mercedes 280S, has given a sworn statement to the magistrate investigating the crash, listing the car's problems. M Lafaye told Hervé Stéphan that the warning lights for the anti-lock braking system and the brake pads had been malfunctioning as recently as the day before the crash last August.

M Lafaye said that the driver, Henri Paul, should not have been at the wheel, even if he was sober, because he had no experience of the car. His statement said: "The car doesn't hold the road well. You had to know it to drive it well." He also claimed that one of the owners of Etoile Limousine had warned him against braking hard.

Male trainee 'victims'

The youngest branch manager of the Midland Bank victimised and then sacked a male trainee, an industrial tribunal was told. Kathryn Douse, 21, below, was said to have been rude and patronising to Andrew Gilbert, 23, singled him out for criticism and passed him over for promotion. The clerk, of Handforth, Cheshire, was sacked from his job in Heywood, Manchester, on New Year's Eve.

Mr Gilbert, who is claiming compensation for loss of earnings, claimed he was passed over for promotion in favour of a woman, despite being the only person to show an interest in the job. He told the tribunal: "She set me up and constantly watched me in order to end my employment. She was regularly rude and patronising towards me. She would not speak to me at all if we were the only two members of staff in the branch." However, Tracey Marsden, for the bank, told the tribunal Mr Gilbert was dismissed because of poor performance, a bad attitude and lack of initiative. She said he was late for work, gave unauthorised personal loans and breached security procedures by leaving unsigned credit cards around. The tribunal continues.



Amnesty racism claim

Amnesty International was accused of racism and sex discrimination by paying a white man more than a black woman. Sheila Elliott, 32, an accountant for the human rights charity in Clerkenwell, London, told a tribunal that Duncan Barnett, who did the same job, was paid £3,000 more. But the tribunal heard that he was a former director of Amnesty, who took on a less stressful job for medical reasons. The hearing continues.

Falcons return to downs

Peregrine falcons have returned to breed after nearly 50 years in an area where they were wiped out, first as part of the war effort and then by the spread of pesticides. Conservationists have discovered a pair breeding in a quarry near Lewes, East Sussex. The birds have raised three young which have now fledged, the first certain instance of successful breeding in the area since the 1950s. Peregrine falcons were common on the Sussex Downs until 1940 when the Air Ministry tried to kill them to stop attacks on carrier pigeons. The population was just starting to re-establish itself when it was wiped out by DDT introduced to farms in the 1950s. The pesticide, ingested by the pigeons that were the falcons' prey, damaged the birds' eggshells and prevented the young from hatching. Since then six peregrine falcons have been spotted across Sussex, but only one other pair has successfully bred, when the Ornithological Society provided them with a nesting box on the top of a block of flats in Brighton.



Warning on chemicals

A quicker system for assessing the safety of chemicals was pledged by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, as he launched a consultation paper, *Sustainable production and use of chemicals*, which seeks views by October 27. He did not rule out acting against some chemicals — such those suspected of causing fish to change sex — in the absence of complete information, if the potential risks were serious or irreversible.

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it's part of the **big number.**

09

K
K
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P

CHARING

Our telephone numbering system needs reorganising - on a big scale - to continue to work successfully. 09 is only part of it...

Student teachers urged to prove they like children

By Victoria Fletcher

STUDENTS who want to become teachers should have to work with youth groups such as Scouts and Brownies to prove that they like children, a union said yesterday.

Too many graduates had had no contact with children and ended up "hating pupils", the Professional Association of Teachers said. Members of the 40,000-strong body, the smallest and most moderate of the four main unions, unanimously approved the call at their annual conference in Cheltenham.

Wendy Dyble, a primary teacher from Shetland who proposed the motion, said: "Most of us start work without any experience of this community we work with. Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Boys' Brigades and youth clubs are all crying out for people to work with them and make them a success."

Mrs Dyble said the trial

period would allow students to assess their abilities as leaders. Disciplinary problems at school were usually caused when pupils sensed a weak or unhappy teacher. "If you then find you absolutely hate it, you have time to get out rather than find the children are hell," she said.

The union also criticised the Government's early years programme as "battery farming" with too much emphasis on literacy and numeracy results rather than the spoken language. Geraldine Everett, a member of the union council, said many children would develop a deep sense of failure, become disaffected and under-achieve. Boys, who are said to develop more slowly than girls and are outperformed at every stage now, would sink even further, she said.

She added: "This Government is not concentrating on education, education, educa-

tion but results, results, results. Britain pushes children into the abstract at three or four, with the emphasis on reading, writing and recorded arithmetic. Our European neighbours are promoting confidence and precision in spoken language in preparation for effective formal learning later."

"So, a curse on early years battery farming. What we need instead is some organic free-range experience to encourage social, emotional and moral growth, good listening and communication skills and to lay a firm foundation for our children so that they can move forward, well-equipped for learning."

The Scouts' Association gave a cautious welcome to the proposal to make students work with children, but questioned the commitment of those volunteering solely to get into teaching.



Elliott Sexton, Fred bear discarded, picnicking with Yogi Bear in Regent's Park yesterday

Picnic time in the park for bears who care

YOGI BEAR and Boo-Boo went down to Regent's Park in London yesterday for a teddy bears' picnic that marked the start of the National Kidney Research Fund's first awareness campaign.

The invited children, who are all suffering from kidney diseases, watched as the bears launched hundreds of balloons into the sky before tucking into the picnic.

Among the guests was three-year-old Elliott Sexton, who came from Guildford in Surrey with his bear, Fred, and his mother, Lisa Ward. She said that Elliott had had a kidney transplant three months ago. "We registered him for a transplant when he was two and we had to wait nine months," she said. "So far everything has been going brilliantly and he is very fit and healthy."

The fund is Britain's leading renal research charity and exists to further work into the causes of kidney-related diseases, a spokeswoman said. The campaign runs until August 9.

Newcastle pair spend £9,000 saying sorry to supporters

By Paul Wilkinson

A PERSONAL apology from the two shamed directors of Newcastle United to each of the club's 34,000 season ticket holders encountered a mixed response yesterday.

"Tacky" was how one fan club leader described the nine-paragraph letter from Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd, which was delivered across the North East yesterday. But another said the events in March, when the two were forced to resign over newspaper reports of their insults to the fans, were "under the bridge".

The letter, the £9,000 cost of which is being borne by the men, was part of the deal to mollify fans after their controversial return to the club's board on Friday. The letter is headed "A personal message from Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd" and is signed by them.

It repeats the apology issued on March 18 after an article in the *News of the World*, and adds: "We are now writing directly to you as a Newcastle United fan to reaffirm our apology and to tell you of our hopes and aspirations for Newcastle United Football Club.

"The events of last March inevitably diverted everyone's attention, but we now once again wish to devote our energies towards giving the people of Tyneside the sort of club they deserve. It took creativity and hard work to transform Newcastle United from a club that was teetering on the brink of descent to the old Third Division to one that, only two years ago, came second in the Premiership and qualified for Europe.

"Last season's league performance was not as good as previous seasons, but we did nevertheless qualify for the Champions League, reach the FA Cup Final, and qualify again for Europe. The club has, during the close season, already signed a number of players to strengthen the squad. We will continue to ensure that Kenny Dalglish

and the team receive our full support.

"Our intention has always been to make Newcastle one of the greatest football clubs in the world. We have started something exciting and, with your help, we intend to finish this task. We have, unfortunately, lost ground since March, for which we are truly sorry, but we now intend to concentrate our energies in recovering that lost ground and repaying you, the supporters, with the football success your loyalty warrants."

John Regan, of the Newcastle United Independent Supporters Association, said: "This letter means absolutely

WE WAS ROBBED

Newcastle United players were the victims of a thief as they trained at the club's Riverside complex in Durham at the weekend. Police said yesterday that Philippe Albert, the Belgian defender, and Alessandro Pistone of Italy lost Rolex watches worth £13,700 and £3,000 respectively, while the midfielder Gary Brady, a recent signing from Tottenham, lost a gold chain worth £250.

nothing to the fans. It is a tacky and patronising attempt to curry favour with the supporters. In reality we all know they never left the club at all, they still kept their car park spaces and influenced the board."

But Steve Wraith, editor of the *Number Nine* fanzine, said: "This is all water under the bridge and the club must consolidate their position and begin challenging for the league championship again. If Hall and Shepherd put their money where their mouth is and bring glory to the club, most of this debacle will be forgotten."

Yorkie on the move, page 45

00 International Codes

01 Existing Area Codes

02 New Area Codes

03 Reserved for Area Codes

04 for Future Use

05 for Future Use

06 for Future Use

07 National Numbering

08

09

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WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN? Well, some changes have already started with new mobile numbers beginning with 07. And you'll be hearing more from us about 08 and 09 over the coming weeks. The main changes will be phased between now and the year 2001, so there'll be plenty of time to prepare.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? Keep a lookout for more 'number change' information from us over the next few months. Or you can find out more right now by visiting our website on www.numberchange.org or by calling our freephone helpline on 0808 22 4 2000. These changes affect all of us. They benefit all of us. And they come from all of us.

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Dounreay shaft 'source of leak'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

RADIOACTIVE particles found on the seashore around the nuclear plant at Dounreay could be leaking from a waste shaft.

The source has long been a mystery. However, in its annual report yesterday, the Government's Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee said that the UK Atomic Energy Authority now acknowledged that the shaft "has the potential to leak particles of this type of irradiated material".

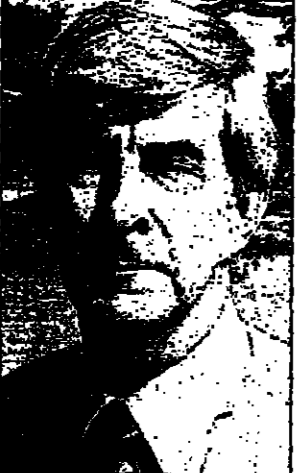
Such particles, no bigger than a grain of sand, have turned up on the foreshore since 1984 at the rate of around one a month. Last year they were found by divers on the seabed, prompting a ban on fishing in the area.

The Government has announced that up to £400 million is to be spent cleaning up the waste shaft.

The authority has been trying to establish the source of the particles, and has succeeded in eliminating one possibility, the turf covering the low cliffs close to the top of the shaft. That leaves the shaft itself, or the possibility that the particles were re-released in the 1960s and could have accumulated on the seabed.

50 من الأمل

Hero of Freetown 'made a scapegoat' to save Whitehall blushes



Penfold: "failed to report contacts with Sandline"

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

PETER PENFOLD, Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone who was yesterday criticised in the Legg report on the arms-to-Africa scandal, will be seen by his small group of colleagues inside the Foreign Office as a martyr to his political masters, and will remain a national hero in Sierra Leone.

Sir Thomas's report said that Mr Penfold had not reported his contacts with Sandline, the military expertise company which supplied the weapons, "promptly and efficiently" and had "given [Sandline] a degree of approval which he had no authority to do".

Confined to the more administrative aspects of the Sierra Leone

ENVOY'S ROLE

scandal, Sir Thomas's report ignored evidence that, far from disapproving of arming factions in Sierra Leone, successive British Governments and their officials in Sierra Leone had been involved with mercenary organisations there since 1995.

Under the Conservatives, the Foreign Office and Treasury approved a £6 million debt write-off scheme for the then Freetown Government, which allowed them to engage the services of Executive Outcomes, the South African mercenary company.

Sierra Leone's own army had collapsed into anarchy and criminality to such an extent that it was

largely due to the role of hired guns from Executive Outcomes that last year's elections could be held at all, a fact freely acknowledged by Foreign Office officials and their ministerial bosses.

"It is inconceivable to claim that the ministers had no knowledge, as the Legg report implies, of the dealings between Sandline, Penfold and President Kabbah. They were common knowledge and part of a long-standing policy to privateise peacemaking in Sierra Leone," said one senior Whitehall official.

Carter diplomats believe that their man, Mr Penfold, has been made a scapegoat by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who had either not bothered to read briefs he was sent about the role of Sandline and the British attitude to arms

shipments to Sierra Leone or wanted to use the technique of "plausible deniability" should a scandal break in the media.

They pointed out that the Legg report noted that five intelligence briefings prepared by the British military attaché in Freetown had been "destroyed" and that messages from Mr Penfold had gone missing.

Part of a small group of Whitehall "Africanists", Mr Penfold, 58, won plaudits as a hero during his service in Uganda from 1984 to 1987, at the height of the civil war which left hundreds of thousands dead. And in Freetown last year he stayed at his post and organised the evacuation of foreigners during the bloody insurrection. Forced from Freetown by the junta which de-

posed Mr Kabbah's democratically elected Government, he continued to work with the government-in-exile in neighbouring Guinea.

Yesterday Mr Cook moved to boost his reputation by criticising the last Tory Government for cutting the staff working on Africa by 100 to 328 and said that "mistakes were made under impossible pressure".

But the mistakes were domestic political blunders made in London rather than policy bungles overseas.

Sierra Leone continues to struggle with the rebels since democratic rule was restored in May by Nigerian peacemakers, with the help of Sandline. Three days ago bandits — who have chopped off the hands, feet and lips of hundreds

of civilians — were involved in a fierce firefight with the Nigerians on the outskirts of Freetown.

Military experts and diplomats in Freetown said that what the country needed was more, not less, help from mercenary companies.

"We all know, as does Penfold, that the Brits wanted to see the end of the rebels and, had there not been this scandal in Britain, they would now be helping to set up more deals with groups like Sandline to hunt down the rebels," said a senior Western diplomat in Freetown.

"Sadly, we will not be seeing any more of Penfold, and we cannot expect any help from the British in support of a perfectly sensible policy which they helped to develop in the first place."

Bumbling FO failed to brief ministers fully

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

A CATALOGUE of misjudgments, wrong interpretations and slow responses lies at the heart of the report into the arms-for-Africa affair by Sir Thomas Legg QC, but he clears ministers and Whitehall officials of being involved in a conspiracy.

Sir Thomas, who examined all the telegrams and papers relating to the counter-coup in Sierra Leone and the role of Sandline International and Foreign Office diplomats, said he was satisfied that officials did not intend to hide information from ministers.

However, the briefings given to ministers alerting them to events in Sierra Leone were inadequate and incomplete. One briefing sent to Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the Foreign Office Minister in the House of Lords, was described as "inaccurate, incomplete and indigestible".

Sir Thomas absolved Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, and Baroness Symons of giving any "encouragement or approval" to the sale of arms by Sandline to the Nigerian-led force, Ecomog, which succeeded in returning the legitimate Government of President Tejan Kabbah to power in Sierra Leone and overthrowing the military junta which had taken over in a coup in May last year.

Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, however, knew about Sandline's plans to sell arms to President Kabbah, then in exile in neighbouring Guinea, and after meeting Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, the company's chief executive, "gave them a degree of approval".

However, Sir Thomas said Mr Penfold did not seem to be aware that the sale of arms would be a breach of the United Nations embargo imposed after the coup. Sir

THE LEGG REPORT



Sir Thomas: ministers are absolved in report

Thomas found that officials, and even ministers, were giving the impression that the UN ban was aimed only at the illegal military junta. Tony Lloyd provided this interpretation when he spoke in the Commons, Sir Thomas said.

He also discovered that papers relating to Sierra Leone and Sandline were sent to ministers' private offices, including Mr Cook's, but officials decided to make further inquiries inside the Foreign Office before passing them on.

Mr Cook, Sir Thomas said, knew nothing about reported meetings between Lieutenant-Colonel Spicer and Mr Penfold, and also with Craig Murray, deputy head of the Foreign Office Africa Department (Equatorial), until he received a letter in late April from Sandline's solicitors. The letter alleged that the Foreign Office had approved the sale of arms to Sierra Leone and that it was, therefore, unjust that Customs and Excise was investigating a possible breach of the embargo.

Two reports drawn up by the Cabinet Office Joint Intelligence Committee had been sent to Tony Blair's office on

January 28 and February 25, with references to Executive Outcomes, a security company linked to Sandline also operating in Sierra Leone, as well as Colonel Spicer's company, "but neither mentioned arms supplies".

Sir Thomas is critical of the Government's failure to circulate throughout Whitehall the details of the UN arms embargo, which allowed Mr Penfold to go ahead with meetings with Colonel Spicer without realising that a sale of arms to President Kabbah was a breach of the law.

On the same day that the Sandline contract was signed to sell arms to President Kabbah — December 23, 1997 — Mr Penfold had lunch in London with Colonel Spicer and Tony Buckingham, an international businessman and "patron" of Sandline. Colonel Spicer said he told the High Commissioner about the contract and gave him a copy. Mr Penfold could not remember whether he took a copy.

Sir Thomas said Mr Penfold had shown a "lack of caution" and that he should have made a note of the conversation.

Earlier in January Colonel Spicer had also had a meeting with two Foreign Office officials, Mr Murray, who had recently taken over as deputy head of his department, and Tim Andrews. Colonel Spicer told Sir Thomas he was sure they understood that Sandline was selling arms and that nobody suggested there was a ban on sending weapons to "the elected Government".

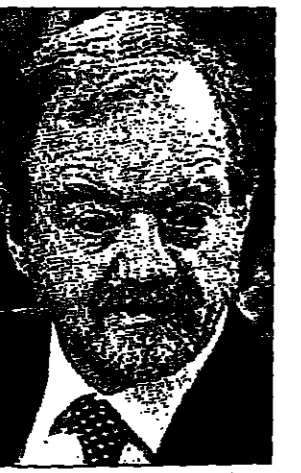
There was also a crucial minute written by Mr Penfold on February 2 which he delivered to the FCO which was headed: "Sandline assistance to President Kabbah's Government". Sir Thomas said: "Mr Penfold's minute clearly informed all who read it that Sandline had been engaged to supply arms."



A bodyguard for one of the leaders of the junta which seized power in Sierra Leone before President Kabbah was restored to authority



Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, above, the chief executive of Sandline, Sir John Kerr, right, the Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, facing questions from the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee last month; and President Kabbah back in Sierra Leone in March from exile



Cook: no breach of policy by ministers

Cook sets up central sanctions desk to monitor embargoes

BY MICHAEL EVANS

REACTION

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons that the Legg inquiry had uncovered no "political scandal" and that his officials had acted in good faith.

He said: "After an exhaustive trawl of the files and over 60 hearings of witnesses, the Legg inquiry has concluded that there was no policy by ministers to breach the arms embargo, and equally there was no conspiracy to undermine government policy."

He told MPs that his officials had been working under great pressure, and Sir Thomas Legg had judged

that they should not be treated too harshly. "I therefore see no case for any further action," he said.

However, he had asked Sir John Kerr, the Permanent Secretary, to write to Peter Penfold, who was subject to the strongest criticism for his contacts with Sandline International, to draw his attention to the relevant parts in the Legg report. "But I do not think it would be justified to take any further proceedings," Mr Cook said. "This should be the end of the matter as far as officials are concerned."

As part of his response to the Legg inquiry, Mr Cook announced a package of measures to improve procedures at the Foreign Office, including a central sanctions enforcement desk to make sure that arms embargoes were fully observed, better ways of handling defence intelligence reports and banning contacts with private military firms unless authorised.

The Foreign Secretary said a sharp reduction in staff was "part of the reason why mistakes were made by staff under impossible pressure".

He announced that part of the extra cash allocated under the Comprehensive Spending Review would be used to strengthen the number of staff dealing with West Africa and Sierra Leone.

Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said the report was "severely critical" of ministers and officials and he told the Commons: "Ministers directly bear the responsibility for the most serious failures." He said the report painted a picture of a Foreign Office in "shambles". There was also "complete inconsistency" between the findings of the report and the evidence Mr Cook had given to the

Foreign Affairs Select Committee, he said. He asked Mr Cook: "How can you remain in office?"

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the Foreign Office Minister, who was accused of failing to mention the Customs inquiry into Sandline in response to Lords questions in March, told peers: "This has not been an exercise in obfuscation. It has indeed been something of a muddle. That muddle has been faced fairly and squarely in this report." She maintained that she had not "knowingly or inadvertently misled Parliament" on March 10.

Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, said he felt "rather uneasy" about the treatment of Mr Penfold who had been praised by the Prime Minister in May and now had been sent a "career-ruining letter of rebuke".

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne and a member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, asked the Foreign Secretary: "Do you have no embarrassment at dumping almost all of the blame on Peter Penfold and accepting almost none of the blame yourself?"

Mr Cook replied: "I would perfectly happily accept any criticisms of myself in the report. There are none."

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Cambodians pin hopes on democracy after 50 years of conflict

THE village elders were sitting under a tamarind tree outside the polling station in Prek Kdam waiting to be called to vote in Sunday's general election when I asked an elderly lady, whose head was shaven, what had been her worst moment in the war.

"Which war do you mean?" Ong Meath replied. "The Japanese war, when they took my father for forced labour, or the French war? Or the war when the American planes came with their big bombs? Or was it the Pol Pot times when we stayed night and day until the Vietnamese tanks came?"

In this most strife-torn of countries, she could also have mentioned the civil war that pitted the forces of the Vietnam-backed regime against a pro-Western rebel



After wars with external enemies, it remains to be seen if the last shots have been fired in the civil war, James Pringle writes from Saang

alliance. This is the war that still splutters, but which Cambodians hope will end with the latest election.

Later on Sunday, visiting a polling station in Saang, a small town south of Phnom Penh, the capital, I admired the home of an 85-year-old woman. "It was nicer before the BS2 bombers blew off the roof," she said, as she served hot corn cobs. She was referring to the American secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969.

I had wanted to see the election in Saang because I witnessed a pointlessly tragic incident here in 1970. On May 1 of that year, the first day of my new Vietnam assignment, the then US President, Richard Nixon, ordered the invasion of Cambodia, attacking the cross-border bases of the Vietcong that the BS2s had been unable to knock out. A little later, I hopped on a helicopter and flew to Cambodia.

Taking advantage of the Ameri-

can invasion, the ill-trained Cambodian Army attacked the Vietcong from behind but the communist forces moved in to take some towns near Phnom Penh. Then I drove out towards Saang and watched Cambodian MIG 17s strafe the market place. Their shell castings fell on the road beside me.

The Cambodian colonel outside Saang seemed at a loss what to do next. He asked me over lunch on the battlefield — white linen tablecloth, *coq au vin* and French red wine (the Cambodians still had style) — what I would do in his tactical position.

I was spared having to answer when his general arrived with 300 Vietnamese residents of Phnom Penh. Though they were innocent of any wrongdoing, the general

said he was going to drive them down the road towards the Vietcong positions. Using a pejorative word for the Vietnamese, he said: "We will come up behind the Youn and capture Saang. If the VC [Vietcong] open fire they will give away their positions and we will win."

Predictably, the Vietcong did open fire and, though they shot over the heads of the terrified column, many were killed. The Cambodian attack fizzled out and the Vietcong moved on. Last Sunday, 27 years later, as people went to the polls, Saang looked as ramshackle now as it did then.

The war was gradually taken over by the Khmer Rouge as the Vietnamese communists withdrew across the border.

In the early 1970s, the Khmer

Rouge was thought of as an indigenous version of the Vietcong. Nothing could have been further from the truth. What followed when the Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh in 1975 was "Year Zero" and the loss of one million lives. My Cambodian interpreter, Sok Ngon, was bludgeoned to death when the Pol Pot regime found out he had worked for a foreign news agency.

The Vietnamese invasion followed and years of occupation and civil war ensued. The story continues until the present day, although Pol Pot, one of the demons of the 20th century, died last April. As a correspondent making frequent trips into South-East Asia, I was fated, like Mrs Meath, to witness much of it.

The Khmer Rouge boycotted

the 1993 United Nations-supervised elections. Although they have become marginalised, they have mounted a raid on Sunday to try to disrupt the poll. It was perhaps a last hurrah.

The Americans and Vietnamese saw their own conflicts in Cambodia end 23 years ago while the war they precipitated still continues in Cambodia.

Yet it could be over if, with Sunday's election, the factions can put the past behind them. But it would be no risky to say it is a safe bet that they will.

Phnom Penh: Cambodian officials postponed the release of unofficial preliminary election results yesterday, saying the figures they had received by fax were unclear and did not have official stamps on them. (AFP)

Doubt cast on truth of Tutu commission

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE main hearings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission will wind up this week with opinion divided about what it has achieved. The commission's chairman, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, says he is "thrilled" that it had "discovered a fair degree" of the truth and helped to promote reconciliation.

However, a poll yesterday showed that only 45 per cent of all voters felt the commission had been fair to all sides, and only 39 per cent that its hearings would help the country's people live together more easily. Worse still, only 18 per cent disagreed with the view that the hearings had worsened race relations.

The question remains as to how much of the truth the commission uncovered. A fog still hangs over the sensational confession by the former Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, to the police bombing of the trade union headquarters, Cosatu House, in 1987 and of the South African Council of Churches' building, Khotso House, in 1988, and the placing of bombs at cinemas screening the anti-apartheid film *Cry Freedom*.

Mr Vlok, the first ex-minister to confess, directly implicated the former President,



Archbishop Tutu: he is "thrilled" by the results

P.W. Botha, saying he had ordered the bombings. Moreover, Mr Vlok and the former Police Commissioner, General Johan van der Merwe, effectively accused the former President, F.W. de Klerk, of lying when he denied knowledge of illegal police activities.

Mr Vlok said he had briefed Mr de Klerk about the bombings in 1991 and that Nelson Mandela had intervened in 1993 to put a stop to Richard Goldstone's investigation of the Khotso House atrocity. The testimony implied that both Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk had knowledge of the

bombings which they had failed to reveal, and that there had been improper political interference with justice — in which Mr Justice Goldstone had acquiesced.

Mr Justice Goldstone has not commented on the allegations. What is not in doubt is that he inexplicably ended his investigation into the Khotso House bombing, turning it over to the Transvaal Attorney-General, Jan d'Oliveira — from whom nothing more about the affair was heard.

Mr van der Merwe, many days after press accounts of his original testimony had appeared, suddenly denied that he had ever asked Mr Mandela to stop the Goldstone investigation, thus contradicting his earlier testimony which, he said, had been "misunderstood".

The overwhelming impression is of a clumsy and only partly successful cover-up. Last week's revelations have gone some way to confirm the rumours of a deal between the high commands of the National Party and the ANC in 1990 guaranteeing immunity from prosecution to all the leading figures on either side.

The commission's target would be the security police thugs and assassins. All that

would be required of former ministers was an apology for apartheid. Crucially, the commission would not be allowed to investigate crimes beyond South Africa's borders — thus exempting from scrutiny the ANC leaders accused of torture and murder in the guerrilla camps in Angola. Similarly, it would protect the South African military top brass who carried out cross-border raids and waged war in Namibia.

Such a deal would also account for the peculiar way in which the commission has pursued Mr Botha. No one doubts that he was responsible for most of the innumerable state crimes and atrocities carried out between 1978 and 1989, but the commission has shown little interest in pinning any of this on him.

Cape Town: The High Court yesterday ordered Wouter Basson, head of the apartheid-era chemical weapons programme, to appear before the commission. Evidence has put Mr Basson at the centre of a programme that made untraceable poisons to assassinate apartheid's enemies, plotted to make blacks infertile and produced illegal drugs on a vast scale. (Reuters)



A defiant Benazir Bhutto arrives yesterday at Lahore High Court where she was charged with corruption

Bhutto faces jail as Lahore court charges her with corruption

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the former Pakistani Prime Minister, appeared in a Lahore court yesterday to face corruption charges for the first time. It was a further humiliation for a once revered politician whose reputation and credibility have been all but destroyed by accounts of huge personal enrichment.

The Government is determined to jail her, an outcome that seems increasingly likely as the legal campaign against her intensifies. Swiss authorities say they will indict her in two or three weeks for alleged money-laundering, lending further credence to allegations of fraud during her two periods in power.

Daniel Devaud, the Swiss judge investigating Miss Bhutto's alleged activities, said it had yet to be decided whether to indict her in Switzerland or Pakistan. The

alleged evidence against her ranges from the purchase of an exorbitantly priced diamond necklace to dealings in tractor imports from Poland.

Despite the pressures, Miss Bhutto remained defiant yesterday, snapping frequently at the judges and accusing them of bias. Her lawyer presented lengthy arguments doubtless designed to force an adjournment, which the judges granted until August 20. They ordered Miss Bhutto to deposit a bail surety of 5 million rupees (£64,000) which was quickly arranged.

The delay gives breathing space for her to devise a defence strategy as the Government pursues its drive to crush her as a political force.

Miss Bhutto denies the many allegations against her and her imprisoned husband, Asif Zardari, who faces criminal charges that include involvement in the murder of his wife's estranged brother

Murtaza, a political rival. Swiss authorities have already indicted him for alleged money-laundering.

Mr Zardari has been in jail for nearly two years and is taken constantly to court for hearings that at times seem to be going nowhere. None of the charges against him has been proved. He sat, smiling, next to Miss Bhutto in court yesterday.

Few Pakistanis believe Miss Bhutto's denials of wrongdoing. Those who once adored her feel betrayed by her failure to honour her pledges of a better life or deal with one of the world's most corrupt political systems.

The Pakistan People's Party, a demoralised body founded by Miss Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was hanged in 1979, tried vainly to mobilise thousands of people to cheer her when she returned to Karachi on Sunday from a visit to Dubai, where her children attend school.

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TV puts the 'fun' in funerals

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A TELEVISION advertising campaign promoting "no frills" funerals and cremations will hit the airwaves in Australia this week, as rival undertakers compete for market share of a business worth nearly £250 million.

Unlike most TV commercials, there will be no soft-focus shots of beautiful models or high-tech computerised effects. Instead, viewers will be treated to stark images of piles of ashes and the black interior of coffins.

According to test showings in cinemas, audiences love them. The Australian arm of the British advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi, which devised the campaign, says

audiences laughing and applauding the commercials.

But church leaders are not amused. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Sydney, the Right Rev Peter Ingham, who is on the Catholic Cemetery Board, said that the advertisements showed a bleak and secular attitude to death. "Funerals are one of those rites of passage that shouldn't be trivialised," he said.

The decision to advertise on television reflects growing competition among undertakers who are keen to carve a bigger slice of the funeral trade by promoting their "products" harder.

Around 128,000 people a year die in Australia, but that



King Hussein of Jordan, above, has undergone chemotherapy treatment in the United States for cancer of the lymph glands. It emerged yesterday (Michael Theodorou writes). He was said to have responded positively to the first stage of treatment. Doctors said it was 100 per

هكذا من الأصل

Clinton allies urge him to testify

As elections loom, Democrats are starting to fear the Lewinsky effect, writes Tom Rhodes in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton faced pressure from his own party in Congress yesterday not to fight a subpoena to testify in the Monica Lewinsky investigation as White House lawyers sought a compromise to prevent him appearing in person before a grand jury.

The White House team is trying to block demands by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, that Mr Clinton become the first sitting President in American history to walk into a courtroom and testify.

A subpoena from Mr Starr requires that Mr Clinton appear by Thursday and as early as today in the case involving his alleged 18-month sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky, a former White House trainee.

It brought a new political dimension to the saga, as Democrats, concerned about their fortunes in November elections, hinted that support for the President would evaporate if he resisted the subpoena.

"I have always believed that Bill Clinton would do as he has said he would do, and would get all the necessary information to the independent counsel," said Richard Gephardt, the House minority leader, in what amounted to little more than a political threat.

White House advisers have already warned Mr Clinton that he could jeopardise congressional support by fighting the request, but his lawyers were engaged yesterday in the tightrope-walking exercise of trying to allow his testimony

without an actual appearance. "I think they will work it out," said one White House official last night.

One of the most significant obstacles to any compromise has been the unwillingness of Mr Starr to agree to Mr Clinton's request that his lawyer, David Kendall, be allowed to attend any session at the White House.

Grand jury witnesses always appear alone and the prosecutor has indicated he will make no exception in his investigation into whether the President had an affair with Ms Lewinsky when she was 21 and then asked her to lie about it.

Various options were under consideration yesterday, including proposals from Mr Starr that the 23 jurors be taken to the White House by bus or that Mr Clinton testify via live closed-circuit television to the federal courtroom.

Another possibility is that the President will offer his evidence on a video recording, as he had done in the Whitewater case.

With the President in Albuquerque, New Mexico, until last night and scheduled to attend a private funeral this afternoon for two police officers killed in the shootout at the US Capitol, it was also clear yesterday that his lawyers would use his busy diary to prove the difficulty of Mr Clinton making an appearance in person.

Talks between the two sides in the coming days will prove critical in determining when and how the two opponents



President Clinton greets well-wishers during a fundraising visit to Aspen, Colorado, before going on to New Mexico

will face their climactic exchange, and possibly meet in person for the first time since explosive details of the alleged affair with Ms Lewinsky emerged in January.

Whatever format is agreed, however, it will be a far cry from the President's promise at the time to provide a swift and full explanation of his relationship with Ms Lew-

insky. "We will give you as many answers as we can, as soon as we can," he said when the allegations first surfaced. "I'd like for you to have more rather than less, sooner rather than later."

There is no guarantee that his belated testimony will be made public and, until the endgame is played out, it remains uncertain just how

damaged Mr Clinton will be from the exchange.

During the past six months, Mr Clinton's approval ratings have soared. Mr Starr's have plummeted and many Americans view the entire affair as a boring sideshow.

But the conclusion is still to come and the White House is desperate to ensure that the Clinton Administration is not

indelibly stained by his alleged sexual misdemeanours.

For the President, the most important thing is to avoid the symbolism of the black limousine pulling up at John Sirica's courthouse," said Ross Baker, a political scientist at Rutgers University, referring to the federal judge who presided over the Watergate trials of President Nixon's aides.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Internet child porn at Dutch ministry

The Hague: Dutch judicial authorities, accused of bungling investigations into an Internet child vice ring, are braced for a fresh barrage of criticism after it emerged that a civil servant faced child pornography charges.

The man, who worked in the Justice Ministry's computer applications management department, has been sacked for downloading pornography from the Internet and distributing it through the ministry's internal computer network, a ministry spokesman said. The man, who has not been named, had been charged with the possession of child pornography. No trial date has been set. (Reuters)

EU phone charges inquiry

Brussels: The European Commission has announced a detailed inquiry into several cases of "possibly excessive or discriminatory" charges for connecting calls between fixed and mobile phones in the EU. It said some consumers were paying up to six times more for calls between fixed and mobile networks than for fixed-to-fixed or mobile-to-mobile calls. If it is found that prices are excessive, the Commission could apply EU rules banning the abuse of a dominant market position. (Reuters)

Nuns murdered in Yemen

Nicosia: Three Roman Catholic nuns who worked with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity were shot dead by a suspected Islamic extremist in Yemen yesterday (Michael Theodorou writes). The women, two from India and the other from the Philippines, were gunned down as they left a clinic for handicapped people in the Red Sea port of Hodeida. Police said they had arrested a 22-year-old Yemeni man, and that he had told them he had killed the nurses because they were "preaching Christianity".

Albright warning to Burma

Manila: Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, warned of "an explosion" in Burma unless the military junta began talks with Aung San Suu Kyi, right, the opposition leader (Abby Tan writes). Ms Albright was "gravely concerned" about Daw Suu Kyi's health and safety and would hold Rangoon responsible for her.



Drinks vessel scuppered

Stockholm: The wreck of a First World War Swedish ketch containing 5,000 bottles of 1907 champagne and thousands of litres of other drinks, which was refloated last week, has now been scuttled after its treasure was shipped to a rescue vessel, a salvage official said. The *Jonkoping*, sunk by a German submarine in 1916, was scuttled in the Gulf of Finland after the ships towing it to Denmark ran into technical difficulties and bad weather. (AFP)

\$1m buyers short-changed

Delhi: Confidence tricksters are peddling fake \$1m banknotes - some with the image of President Clinton - to gullible travellers heading to the United States and Canada for medical treatment, a newspaper reported. The US has no notes of such a high denomination, but many people have been fooled by the quality of the paper and printing, the *Times of India* said. (AP)

Parents accept penalty

Washington: The parents of a schizophrenic loner charged with killing two police officers at the Capitol have said they will accept the death penalty for their son if he is convicted (Tom Rhodes writes).

Russell Weston Sr, 49, and his daughter, April Callahan, 21, apologised to the American people and the relatives of the victims as Washington prepared to pay the ultimate

Canadians find lost colony's mansion

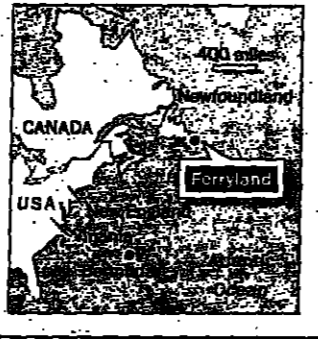
By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

CANADIAN archaeologists working at the site of a 17th-century British settlement at Ferryland in Newfoundland, have uncovered the foundations of a stone mansion built in 1627 for Lord Baltimore, who founded the colony of Avalon there in 1621.

The find was described yesterday as "one of the most exciting and significant" in North America by James Tuck, a professor of archaeology at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, who is leading the excavation.

"The site shows us better than many others how a group of Englishmen came here over 450 years ago and adapted themselves to the rigours of the New World," Dr Tuck said. The particular rigours of the Ferryland area proved too much for Lord Baltimore himself. Tired of the cold and inclement climate, he took his family south in 1632 and founded the colony of Maryland. He died soon afterwards.

Government finance for the dig runs out soon. "Finding Lord Baltimore's mansion could not have come at a better time," Dr Tuck said.



Israel call to limit dialogue with Iran

By ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL EVANS

ISRAEL has warned Britain against promoting greater dialogue with Iran, saying that this is no way to halt the Islamic republic's determination to develop weapons of mass destruction.

"The Iranian [military] mountain is bigger from our perspective, and it is darkening our windows much more than in London," an Israeli government official said.

After Whitehall confusion about recent contacts between Israeli and British officials over the proliferation of ballistic missiles in the Middle East, the Ministry of Defence confirmed that the junior Defence Minister, John Speller, had had a meeting with David Ivry, who is a senior adviser on strategic affairs at the Israeli Defence Ministry.

A Ministry of Defence official that said Mr Ivry paid a courtesy call on Mr Speller on July 15 and during the meeting there were discussions about the spread of ballistic missiles in the Middle East.

However, the official denied there had been any specific agreement to monitor or cooperate with Israel over the threat posed by ballistic missiles.

Dror Zeigerman, Israel's Ambassador to London, said there had been an exchange of information about missiles in Iran and Iraq. "There are a lot of things that we can cooperate on between us," he said. He praised the Defence Minister for the helpful attitude he adopted during the meeting.

The Israeli Government official said that his country was arguing for Britain and other European nations to use whatever influence they had to dissuade Russia, in particular, from supplying military technology to Iran.

Israel believed Europe should pursue the United States policy of sanctions against Tehran, rather than greater trade with the country, he said.

German magazine finds Blair's image hollow

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

COOL Britannia, once hailed as a model for a future Social Democratic government in Germany, was yesterday given poor marks by the influential magazine *Der Spiegel*.

A scathing account of the failures of Tony Blair's Government was sharper in tone and matched the mood of other German commentators. "Blair: End of the English Dreams", *Der Spiegel's* headline read. "Scandals, Looming Recession, Higher Unemployment - New Labour is Losing its Shine".

The checklist concedes that the Prime Minister has brought some dynamism to the country. "But New Labour is also inflicting its own wounds... hard-working Labour backbenchers are complaining that the boy prodigies from 10 Downing Street are shutting shop at 6.30 in the evening in order to hurry to champagne parties when their boss is away."

Mr Blair, says the Hamburg magazine that sets the news agenda for Germany, had promised to overhaul the welfare state and in so doing had offered hope for Social Democrats throughout Europe in their search for an answer to neo-liberal or Thatcherite policies.

"He urged his staff to think the unthinkable... Britons would have been happy if he had at least attempted to do the do-able".

In detail the shortcomings included:

- Blair's dream that he could take over the leadership of Europe after the end of the Kohl era can scarcely now be realised. At the end of the British European Union presidency, he had to admit that his country had actually lost influence in Europe.
- The British economy, says the magazine, is heading for real trouble. "Instead of celebrating the dawn of a new British era, the nation has had to accept that the old British sickness has still not been cured." Every British worker produces 40 per cent less than his American counterpart and 20 per cent less than the German worker. Growth this year will be 2 per cent, compared to 2.5 per cent in Germany. 2.75 per cent in France, 3.5 per cent in Spain.
- Mr Blair's constitutional reforms are beginning to backfire. Scottish Nationalists are well ahead of Labour in the run-up for the Scottish Assembly and "a dissolution of the United Kingdom could no longer be excluded". Attempts to take power away from the House of Lords "has led to a series of defeats for the Government".
- This is more than *Schadenfreude*, although many Germans are fed up with being lectured by British visitors. The Germans are genuinely concerned. Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democratic challenger to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, presents himself as a German version of Mr Blair. Now he looks a little exposed. "The great British model is for the time being only a shimmering vision," not a reality, says *Der Spiegel*. Herr Schröder, who earlier this year was very eager to pose with Mr Blair, now talks more often of the Dutch model or of emulating the success of President Clinton.

Kohl memorial to Jews mocked

By ROGER BOYES

THE ambitious plan put forward by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to build a huge memorial to Holocaust victims in the heart of Berlin has suddenly become an election issue, with opposition Social Democrats describing it as a "memorial for memory, a suspension of guilt in art".

Herr Kohl earmarked a huge site in Berlin, close to the Reichstag and to Hitler's underground bunker, for a sculpted memorial. Once Berlin becomes the political capital of Germany, every foreign visitor would pass by the vast memorial.

However, Michael Naumann, the Social Democrats' newly appointed cultural spokesman, is questioning whether the memorial is needed at all. "The real memorials in Germany are the concentration camps", he said in a recent interview.

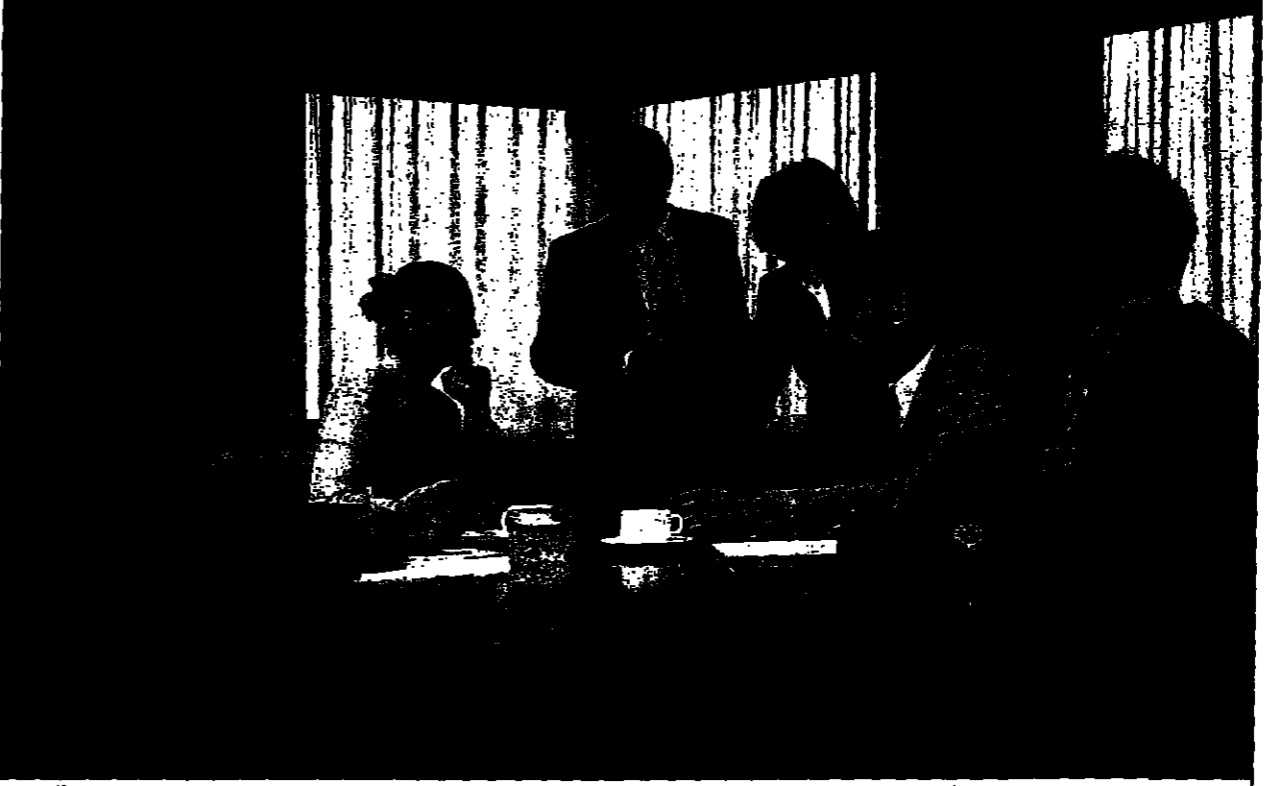
Herr Kohl's plan would "not lead psychologically to what a simple visit to Bergen-Belsen evokes in a more shocking manner". The Chancellor, he said, had a "crude understanding of historical memory which thinks that things can be finished by a modelled memory, and then you move on in history".

Herr Kohl is enraged but the German Jewish community is backing the Chancellor, although it is divided over various designs.



The opposition Social Democrats unveil an election poster yesterday likening Helmut Kohl to a dinosaur

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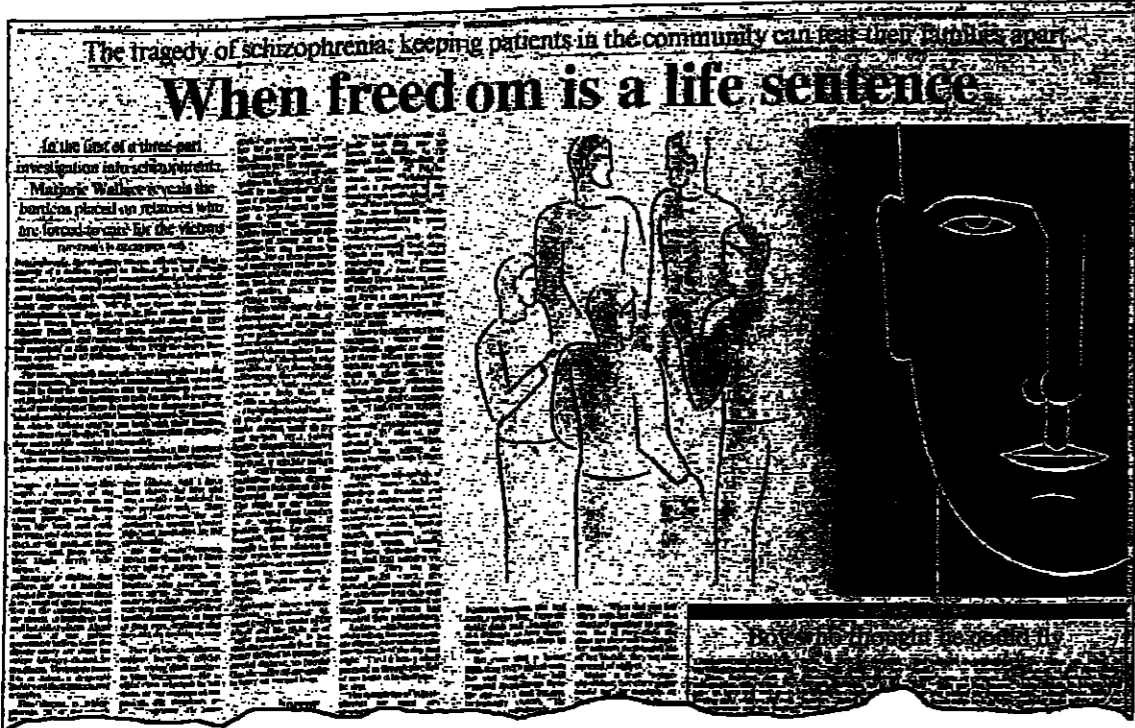
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Victory: the end of community care

For almost 40 years, care in the Community has stood for a practice which often failed. It worked for some people with mental illness but let down many others. Marjorie Wallace has made it her mission to say this as forcefully and as frequently as possible, and tomorrow she will get her reward when Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, admits that she is right.

Marjorie Wallace spearheaded *The Times* campaign for mentally ill people. Bill Frost reports

It was flawed from the start," she says. "It was a social experiment and a true liberation for many people who, with the new drugs available, were well able to live outside hospital and continue to do so."

"But for hundreds and thousands of others it has meant not a promised land of supervised houses, skilled careworkers and crisis help when they need it, but fighting for their mental and physical survival alone in flats and bedsits, or back with their families who break down over the strain."

"For the unlucky ones community care has meant being shunted from one lodging house to another and onto the streets. Then the only way of finding a bed is a police cell or prison. The human cost is incalculable."

The campaign in *The Times* that Wallace spearheaded had three aims: to sweep away the secrecy associated with schizophrenia; to stimulate research into the disease; and to stem the tide of hospital closures and the discharge of patients into the community before there were adequate means to care for them. Wallace's articles — harrowingly detailed and as-

tonishingly perceptive — provoked thousands of readers' letters that showed the prevalence of the disease and highlighted the anguish experienced by mentally ill people and their families.

"Through my time in journalism I had already seen the desperate situation of the Thalidomide victims, the old and the handicapped," she says. "But people with schizophrenia moved me even more deeply, perhaps because it is so close a threat, striking without warning young people at the peak of their promise, and because the scale of the problem is so daunting and unexpected."

"Schizophrenia is three times as common as cancer and fills more hospital beds than any other disease. But although it is so prevalent, it existed behind a screen of secrecy — families were not willing to admit that their child had gone 'mental'."

SANE, founded as a result of *The Times* articles, now addresses all mental illness. It has an annual income of £1 million, has raised £5 million for a research centre and established the first national telephone helpline for people who live with mental illness.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the Sultan of Brunei have given generously to the cause, and the Prince of Wales is its patron.

Wallace bases her convictions on the 1,000 calls made to Saneline each week — most highlight a health service in chaos, she says.

"What we hope is that the Govern-



Marjorie Wallace: "Care in the community was flawed from the start"

ment is not going to do as previous governments have done —inker at the edges of their policy. They must review it root and branch. It is not enough to target only the politically inconvenient and the visible people who hit the headlines.

"Access to care and treatment must be available for everyone; we want a gold standard of mental health care, not just belated outpatient appointments, and to achieve this we need to ensure that there are enough beds — enough places of asylum in the true sense of the word."

Wallace also calls for a training programme to attract back to the NHS the consultants, nurses and social workers who have, in despondency, fled the care system. She speaks of 440 vacant posts for psychiatrists in Britain and a single consultant in Bedfordshire who was the main contact for 400 patients. He had only ten beds at his disposal.

"There is a famine of nurses," she adds. Only 15 per cent of the callers to Saneline have seen a community psy-

chiatric nurse. There is no national standard in risk assessment and training, and with beds at 100 to 140 per cent occupancy, there is nowhere for mentally ill people to go.

"The danger is that the new monies will tackle the tip of the iceberg at the expense of the one in ten who seeks psychiatric help. If the measures do not cover them we will continue to have 20 suicides a week and less vocal people will continue to suffer in silence."

"The aim should be to reduce stigma and restore confidence that an adequate level and quality of care will be available for all who need it when they need it. No patient should be discharged from care without a risk assessment and care plan."

"What we need is a victory of common sense and compassion over outdated ideologies and insensitive, worn-out bureaucracy."

• SANE, 40 Adler Street, London E1 1EE, 0171-375 1002, (Helpline, 2pm to midnight, 0345 678000).

When a parent has mental illness

Martin Anderson on the impact of schizophrenia on family life

When one of my parents began to cement up the radiator because of "mice", it struck me as an eccentric non-sequitur in my experience of a singular, but loving and intelligent person.

It was 15 years before I discovered that the incident had taken place for fear that "a man" might crawl through the one-inch gap during the night. Those intervening years brought many other "eccentricities", all characterised by paranoia: possession by evil spirits, invasion, nuclear war, phone-bugging, conspiracy theories.

Considering the power that my parent retained throughout the illness, and the division and misery that it brought to the family, considering also that paranoid schizophrenia has struck twice in my family this century, it seems astonishing that the illness was not identified for more than 15 years.

Last year I met an Italian family who had passed through the same troubled waters. Their mother had received treatment and is reported to be a happy and benevolent nature. I listened with recognition as the family recounted the lengths to which they had gone to validate and even believe her obsessions in the early years of the illness. My family had done the same.

When schizophrenia invades the family, children often face a premature transition into adulthood, as their parent journeys in the opposite direction. Though the public often registers the disease in terms of headline-making crises, the sufferer can have a normal public persona, may have a job and be capable of exceptional charm and social grace.

Relatives often seem to welcome this superficial gloss in their efforts to maintain a facade of normality. The stigma attached to the word schizophrenia frightens them from seeking the treatment that is often their best chance of returning to a more normal life.

It can promote a feeling in the sufferer's family akin to bereavement. The situation is particularly difficult in cases of paranoid schizophrenia, where — as with my parent — the sufferer is often aware of and terrified by the prospect of committal hospitalisation or personal failure.

But the years of anguish and frustrated hope that ensue from an untreated and unremitting case of schizophrenia leave deep scars on the sufferer's children.

They are not only subject to disastrous involvement in their parent's atrophied value system but remain isolated from information that could ameliorate their fears about social ostracism and susceptibility to the disease. The struggle can set family members against each other, when the real villain is often the ignorance and stigma that makes them fear discovery.

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CHANGING TIMES

B6 users can take new heart

Dr Jack Cunningham's promotion may coincidentally help premenstrual women and people threatened with heart disease. His approach to BSE has been realistic and practical, but it is harder to support Dr Cunningham on the Ministry of Agriculture's approach to vitamin B6. By moving to higher planes he may now have made it possible for his civil servants and advisers to make a dignified retreat over the contentious vitamin.

The Commons Health Select Committee found no good reason to support the Government's decision to limit the free sale of this vitamin to 10mg per day. This conflicts with the equally thorough studies made by the American Academy of Sciences and the select committee concluded: "We trust that this unfortunate row which has taken place over vitamin B6 will act as a constant reminder of the need to base recommendations of advice on sound and substantiated scientific knowledge."

Even as the Government has been defending its decisions on the sale of vitamin B6, new research has appeared in the *American Heart Association's Journal, Circulation*, about heart disease and the vitamin.

There is apparently a correlation between high levels of vitamin B6 in the blood and the reduction in the amount of atherosclerosis — the clogging of the arteries with fatty deposits, which leads to high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes and peripheral vascular disease.

Doctors at the University of Minnesota studied 759 initially healthy people over three years and found that those with the lowest risk of heart disease had the highest levels of vitamin B6. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* had already reported that women with high intakes of vitamin B6 and folic acid had a 45 per cent lower risk of developing heart disease.

Vitamin B6 is involved in the production of serotonin, one of the chemicals which is of fundamental importance in determining mood — whether happiness or misery. Little wonder that it is frequently taken by women who become de-

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

pressed before their periods. If we all had the time and inclination to tend our organic gardens on a selenium-rich soil and ate the prescribed five helpings of vegetables or fruit a day, we would all be very fit. As it is, we have tired of vegetables and fruit grown on intensive farms and then transported for days before they reach the stalls. Urban lifestyle leads to rushed meals and we no longer live off the land but out of the supermarket.

Given today's way of life, what vitamins and other supplements should be in the medicine chest? Vitamin E, an anti-oxidant, helps to maintain a healthy immune system, is good for the arteries, improves circulation, helps healing, and recent work has shown that higher levels of vitamin E are associated with a reduction in the incidence of cancer of the prostate. Folic acid is essential for all women having unprotected sex. Low levels are associated with spina bifida, hydrocephalus and probably hare lip and other facial deformities in the newborn. Recent research suggests folic acid may prevent some heart disease, and possibly even some malignancies. The great proponent of vitamin C, Linus Pauling, who won two Nobel prizes, took four or five grams of vitamin C every day and died aged 93. By coincidence, Dr Albert Szent-Gyorgi, another Nobel prizewinner who first isolated vitamin C in Cambridge, also lived to be 93.

There is evidence that modest vitamin C supplements of below 500mg are useful. The *BMJ* suggested that low levels of selenium in Britain could be contributing to cancers, cardiovascular disease and sub-fertility. Vitamins C, E, folic acid and selenium should certainly be in the medicine chest, together with some multivitamins and mineral tablets. Without further research, beta-carotene should not.

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Children and party politics

What happened to the boy who was happy with Marmite sandwiches, asks Aoife O'Brien



Uri Geller at a party for children who have had kidney transplants

A month before my son's seventh birthday he issued his list of requirements, plus guest list. What happened, I wondered, to the little boy who had once been happy with Marmite soldiers and pass-the-parcel.

Top of his list was a Mr Doolally. "Who's he?" I asked. "Ring Lara's Mummy for the number," he replied with a resigned expression. Alas, Mr Ali Do Lali, children's entertainer, was booked solid.

Fortunately, Mr Twizzle had a cancellation for the date, and was a complete success, putting 20 ecstatic children through their paces as gladiators, limbo dancers and magician's assistants, rounding it all off with a wildly energetic disco at 5pm.

I couldn't help wondering what the guests would have thought of my seventh birthday party, where the highlight was pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey.

So what prompts some parents to go to great lengths, and expense, to give junior

a fun-filled birthday party? Children of schoolgoing age tend to be invited to a lot more parties, thereby acquiring an encyclopaedic knowledge of what's on offer in the world of children's entertainment, and it becomes harder not to follow the party line if all their friends are doing it.

If you are brave you can continue to put on old-fashioned parties, but today's children just won't have it. Probably the easiest and most economical option is to hire a party room at a local activity or leisure centre at a cost of about £7.50 for each child. For younger children there is nothing quite like a Punch and Judy show.

Children's entertainers have become an essential birthday ingredient as bowls of Smarties. The choice is bewildering, but your child will probably know precisely

whom they want; from Bob Thingummy, Lydie the bilingual entertainer, and Fatchy Pete to Tridlywinds factors who will transform your sitting room according to the theme of your choice and enact anything from *Beauty and the Beast* to *Aladdin* with the children) and Mr Twizzle (whose printed client list includes Paula Yates and Yasmin Le Bon).

I have even come across a very convincing Mickey Mouse who was a Chippendale by night. All of these cost from £100 to £250 for a couple of hours. Unless you hire the "Spice Girls" from a lookalike agency at £150 each for the afternoon.

Nor does it stop there. Invitations, helium-filled balloons, table and chair hire, prizes, birthday cake and going-home presents can easily bump up the cost.

If your little girl prefers something more rough and tumble than a pottery-making afternoon or having Cookie Crumbles Cooking Parties organise her birthday, you could always take her and her friends, with sleeping bags, to London's Science Museum, which organises Science Nights at £20 for each child.

Boys aged six and over can have a Quadsquad party at Thruxton Racing School, where they will receive basic quad bike tuition and set off on a rally and safari circuit for an hour (£15 a child). Legoland at Windsor will organise a birthday tea which, along with entry fee, will cost about £25 a child.

It is a terrifying thought, but what happens if party fatigue sets in before children even reach the age of ten? To keep parties as simple as possible for as long as possible must be the answer. Otherwise, think about opening an investment fund now for their 21st birthday celebrations.

'I can't cope with my millions'

A US group is assisting mega-rich women who are afraid of their wealth. Giles Whittell reports

Barbara Stanny is, at last, at one with her wealth. From her enchanting log home on the northern Pacific coast she invests the money her father gave her, and often has good reason to be chuffed.

In the past 15 months she has watched the stake she bought in Pfizer pharmaceuticals treble in value as a million men queue up to buy Viagra, the new erectile drug.

But money was not always such fun for her. In fact, until she met a group of women in the same predicament — each having oodles of unearned money under management — it was a source of intense distress. This peaked when her first husband fled the country, leaving her with a million-dollar tax bill acquired during his career as a compulsive Wall Street gambler.

"I knew I couldn't pay it," she says, not quite accurately. As the inheritor of one of America's main accounting fortunes, she was sitting on a stock portfolio of "no-need-to-work" proportions. She could pay — just not with the cheque-book she was used to.

"They didn't come any dumber than me, or more scared," she says with fierce candour. "I had grown up with money but was so intimidated by it that I'd signed whatever my husband told me to sign. I didn't know how much I had. I didn't know where it was, and I didn't know how to find out. I was terribly embarrassed and ashamed. I had never told anybody, not even my psychiatrist."

The year was 1987: the city, San Francisco. Ms Stanny's first stroke of luck had been to be born into unimaginable wealth. Her second was to find a support group tailor-made for her — one that, in the truest sense of the cliché, could probably exist only in America.

Resourceful Women is a non-profit outfit with a difference. Founded as Managing Inherited Wealth, it does just that — among other things — for rich women who in an earlier age would almost certainly have caved in to aeons of tradition and let their menfolk organise their money.

Ms Stanny was a model recruit. "The only advice that my



Group support: "I was intimidated by money; I didn't know how much I had. I didn't know where it was, and I didn't know how to find out. I was embarrassed and ashamed"

father ever gave me about money while growing up was 'Don't worry,' she says. "And under these words, of course, was the unspoken assumption that there will always be a man to take care of you."

Instead, a tiny group of similarly burdened women took care of her. They must have been some of the most privileged revolutionaries in history, but that was how they saw themselves. Their founder, an anti-Vietnam War protester who had been appalled to find so many defence contractors in her portfolio, declared that "learning about money — managing it, talking about it with our loved ones, using it to bring about social change — is as important for women today as it was for our grandmothers to secure the right to vote".

Resourceful Women has since grown into a cross between a think-tank and a highly specialised consultancy. Its seminars range from the businesslike — Basic Financial Literacy and Demystifying Annual Reports — to the painfully personal: issues are often needed for the sessions entitled *Who Would You Be Without Your Money?* Its expertise covers rich women's dating anxieties (When's he going to hit me for a loan? What will he think when he picks me up from home?) and the latest soft-



Want not: Barbara Stanny

hoping to find a bastion of limousine liberalism, but the closest thing to a limo in the car park was a perky little BMW.

Nonetheless, money is the main thing the members of Resourceful Women have in common. Serious money. To be a member of the Women's Donor Network — an RW subdivision — you need to be giving away at least \$25,000 (£15,000) a year, but many give much more: \$1.5 million is not unusual. As for "money under management" — the basic criterion for RW eligibility — the threshold is \$100,000.

Small potatoes? Sure. "But our last analysis showed most members were in the \$1 million to \$5 million range," says Judy Bloom, the group's strikingly well-adjusted executive director.

Women tend to come to Judy and her seven-strong staff after a "life-changing event" such as widowhood, divorce, winning a lawsuit or, in one case, the lottery. But most are inheritors, tied to fortunes they never asked for, who feel powerless to rebuild them should they collapse. They are also often in the very un-American position of lacking an overwhelming financial need to work.

Poor dears, you scoff, but that may be because you live in Britain, where not one billionaire made Forbes's latest list of very wealthy people, and big money as a subject tends to induce either slack jaws or giggling.

thropy towards women, rain-forests and children."

Resourceful Women also hopes to help America's growing ranks of self-made women millionaires. (Stock options in Silicon Valley software firms have produced not dozens of these formidable females, but hundreds.) But what is most striking about Resourceful

Women is its focus on one age-old cultural bias.

"Girls still believe, in large numbers, that they'll run into 'Mr Perfect' on a white horse and he'll take care of them," Ms Bloom insists.

She seems to be right. Ms Stanny has written a book, *Prince Charming isn't Coming*, which has had nine printings since it was published last year. She still lives off her investments, but seems to have found a vocation in telling other lucky women how to take control of their moolah.

"Some people have great hair; I happen to have a wealthy family — and crappy hair," she says, not sounding too upset.

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Good day for grand old men

Michael Gove says Blairism's reshuffle wasn't a relaunch

I'm delighted for Jack Cunningham but could he answer one question — where's the beef? What new direction does this Government now have? Reshuffles cannot help being about personalities but this one can only confirm fears that the Blair Government is more about people and processes, than policy and purpose. It also provides ammunition for critics who argue that new Labour is more a matter of presentation and high politics than a fresh ideology. The Third Way should be renamed Memory Lane.

The reshuffle will be seen as a very bad day for Harriet Harman, a disillusioning one for Frank Field and a reverse for Gordon Brown, but it is also an act of homage to Jim Callaghan, a vindication of a kind for Tony Benn and excellent news for Roy Jenkins.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff can take pleasure in the elevation of Old Right politicians, including his former PPS, Dr Cunningham, in preference to new-model Blairites. Mr Benn may reflect on his warning of the troubles caused when politicians of the Left focus on personalities not issues. And Lord Jenkins of Hillhead can feel confident that, with so many other high hopes deflated, electoral reform will be ever more important to an administration determined to be seen making a dramatic difference.

The promises made for Blairism were extravagant in tone, though never very specific in detail. The Prime Minister's evangelistic style, the comparisons which were invited with Margaret Thatcher's transformation of Britain and the pledge to transcend the old politics of Left and Right seem, this morning, like the words of a seducer dimly recalled from the intoxicating night before. Now, all passion spent, we are in bed with a Prime Minister whose paunch is showing.

The woman who has the greatest cause to curse her involvement with the demon lover of Downing Street is Ms Harman. Her humiliation marks the withering of two great hopes associated with Blairism — a new deal for women and fundamental reform of the welfare state.

The Prime Minister has used his reshuffle to put his women in their place — out of the limelight, away from the testing technicalities of running departments and generating policy. The appointment of Margaret Beckett, Baroness Jay and Ann Taylor as Leader of the Commons, Leader of the Lords and Chief Whip respectively shows us what Mr Blair considers real women's work to be — nannying. These three will be nursemaids to the administration, keeping their Houses in order while the lads get on with governing.

It also confirms that the welfare reform crusade has, so far, been a failure. Alistair Darling may make a difference. He is certainly intelligent enough to do so. But it will be hard for Labour traditionalists to accept radical change from another public school-educated lawyer.

The Comprehensive Spending Review's confirmation that Social Security spending is to continue its upward trend, and the departure of Frank Field only underline the failure so far. Before the reshuffle, government sources had briefed that Mr Field, once portrayed as Blair's John the Baptist, was back in the wilderness. He had been told to focus on tackling fraud. "Tackling fraud" serves the same purpose for Social Security ministers as "writing a novel" for middle-class drop-outs. It masks the lack of real activity.

We are now in bed with a PM whose paunch is showing

er than the Government versus poverty or the people versus privilege. This reshuffle will be reported as the Prime Minister's reassertion of his authority over the Brownites, but the fact that he had to assert his authority proves it was wanting. Tony Blair should listen to Tony Benn — in the absence of issues the press will write about personalities.

There is one big idea that could give this Government fresh momentum. It is the report of the Jenkins Commission on Electoral Reform. Those opposed to PR, like Jack Straw, are increasingly assertive. But only last week another senior Cabinet minister was affirming that "PR is becoming a very important part of the Third Way."

The minister argued persuasively that a great many MPs elected in 1997 came from areas where Labour has not traditionally had seats. They wanted to see their way back into the Commons assured before they were ejected at the next election. For them, PR is the route back. For Mr Blair it is the route into the history books as a great constitutional reformer. For Lord Jenkins it is entirely agreeable, as he joins his former colleagues Lord Callaghan and Mr Benn as the three spirits of Labour past who once again haunt the Cabinet Room.



The Granny State

Why doesn't Mr Darling trust us to choose our own childcare wisely?

Good morning, Mr Darling, and congratulations. If you thought a new Secretary of State for Social Services would be allowed to get his knees under the desk in peace, think again. I want to talk about babies. That thing in the door is my foot.

The trouble is that for all our efforts to regulate them, infants are essentially informal creatures. When they want something they follow no recognised application procedure, but stream. Sometimes they scream even when they get it. They develop strong personalities within hours, and take years to start restraining them. Given a well-designed toy, they ignore it and chew the box. They like a laugh and lack all sense of dignity; this includes your dignity, so they will snatch your glasses off and dribble on them.

These quintessentially informal beings happen to flourish best under care that is equally informal. A baby has no interest in being the "client" of some highly trained professional. He, or she, is utterly indifferent to framed diplomas, unless these are being used for peek-a-boo. What small children want is a personal relationship: or better, several. If babies could vote, they would vote to hang out with their Mum and Dad and Granny and an assortment of Aunties: familiar people with familiar smiles, who know their taste in silly songs and can distinguish boredom from overindulgence. It is a matter of supreme indifference to the baby whether these people are paid or not.

Bear with me, Secretary of State; I am coming to the point. This week sees the end of consultation on the childcare Green Paper which you inherited from your predecessor. In its first version, it was proposed to encourage the female workforce by paying a childcare allowance to working mothers who use "approved options" like childminders and out-of-school clubs. Now — after some hysteria over a rogue childminder who shook a baby to death — it is made known that, in the interests of strengthening the family, this money may also be available for grandparents.

"State will pay grandparents to babysit" said the headline in *The Sunday Telegraph*, immediately causing

scores of upmarket grannies to bridle with indignation at the insulting suggestion that they would accept money from socialist riff-raff to have young Lactitia to tea. Then came the killer punch: Whitehall is going to "encourage grandparents and relatives to register as childminders". By now the grannies are frothing at the mouth. They want us to register as childminders? To take some tests? They want to send in some bearded social worker, do they, to burn our wooden chopping-board, issue us with Gay Awareness pamphlets and clear the shelves of sexist pony books?

It is not the suggestion of payment that will enrage grandparents — the affluent can always put it in a savings account for the child — but the thought of registration. Local authorities do not enjoy high esteem in this field. It was a local authority that failed to notice that childminder Helen Stacey had three children in care, and council children's homes have furnished years of appalling scandals. So in attempting to soften the state-nursery tone of the original proposals, the DSS has only managed to get still further up the noses of those who appreciate proper family life. Which means, believe it or not, most families.

So what should Mr Darling do? (Pleasingly, it occurs to me that the last Mr Darling to be publicly concerned in the nursery question was the father in *Peter Pan*, who employed a Newfoundland dog as a nanny and ended in the kennel himself.) Well, he could take a daring new look at the relationship between parents, children, and the State. He could offer one clear directive to those emerging from the maternity ward: something like this.

"You now have an inescapable responsibility. The nation wishes your child to grow up healthy, happy, and

hold parents responsible for a lazy negligent choice of childcare. It would be made quite clear that when it comes to the vigilant care of children, the buck stops squarely with parents. It would also be made clear that those who drank the money or neglected their children would fall foul of a strengthened system of fostering and — after a brief chance of reform — compulsory adoption, with the money following the child or children to a new and better home. This is an unfashionably harsh thing for a bleeding-heart liberal like myself to say, but there are too many lives wrecked by feckless, stupid, selfish parents. We can no longer cling to the sentimental line about natural parents always being best: a country that took children seriously would recognise that.

However, the odds are that given this wide new range of formal and informal options, the vast majority of parents would make loving, sensible, ingenious decisions. They already do: some excellent lives are led by small children whose minders are not registered at all, but simply liked and trusted by mothers in the same street or tower block. Even without such illegality, some of the best starts in life have always involved grandmothers and aunts and maiden ladies down the road. It would take only a modest investment in childcare to bring them back from the duller factory floor lives they now lead.

So my plea is for a formal recognition of the informal and ad-hoc nature of babies. If I am asking for apparently contradictory things, the excuse is that they might balance one another out: more public money and less public interference; more trust in parental love and less trust in officialdom.

And in case anyone comes up with Frank Field's old chestnut about the deprived woman journalist whose child benefit goes on Sainsbury's champagne — yes, of course the allowance should be taxed. Maybe even means-tested out of existence for the wealthiest families. But even if it were not, it would still be a supportable policy: the clearest possible sign of Britain's faith in its people and commitment to a civilised future.

Libby Purves

it is set at around £350 a month. The recipient can then choose from various options, depending on circumstance and the individual child (some infants adore crèches, some hate them). You might choose to stay at home and look after the baby full-time on this low but feasible income, or do a bit of piecework while it sleeps. You might pay somebody you instinctively and rationally trust: a relative, a close friend, a neighbour, an unemployed local teenager, a single mother, a gap-year student. Full-time workers might choose a professional childminder, or put the money towards a nanny. You might form a co-op with other women in your street, whereby one or two honorary aunts take on a household of children and are paid by the rest. A parent's only priority would be to find somebody, formal or informal, capable of really loving and enjoying the baby and thereby deserving its state dowry. And if it transpired that your particular baby was happy only with you, you would not be too despatchly poor.

It would be your decision how you spent the money, but also your responsibility. If abuses resulted — and it is not hard to imagine the baby-farms that would try to prey on this parental allowance — the law would crack down hard. But it would also

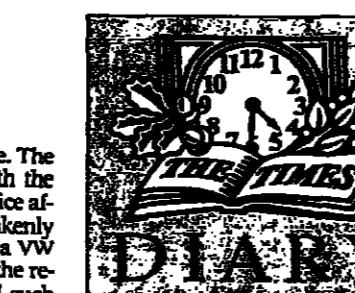
Off course

PAULA HAMILTON has toppled off the wagon in spectacular style. The troubled model, who was weaned off alcohol seven years ago with the help of Eric Clapton and Sir Anthony Hopkins, was arrested by police after a quiet Lincolnshire dinner party she was invited to went drunkenly awry. Ms Hamilton (pictured), who strode to fame on the back of a VW Golf weekender and whose film career stutters back into life with the release this week of the Ampleforth-based *Monk Dawson*, displayed such devotion to the vine that by 5am she was deemed to have outstayed her welcome. The hosts were forced to put in a call to the local constabulary.

It is an unfortunate slip for Ms Hamilton, who confessed last year that she was having trouble staying off the hard stuff. "The trouble is I have a chemical imbalance, so with one drink one day I can be fine. But two drinks the next day and I'm sloshed."

Lincolnshire Police sources suggest that more than a couple of drinks were involved. They confirm that "a woman was arrested at a house in Greatford in the early hours of the morning... after complaints of drunkenness and criminal damage. She was taken to Grantham police station. After no further complaint was made, she was released without charge."

WHAT now for Tony Blair's former brightest minister? Frank Field, now free, will be courted by publishers keen for a "my hell working for Blair" book. Ion Trewin,



clad in tennis whites, with Marie Elena, his sparky Maltese wife. My man with the cork says: "He marched to the head of the queue and demanded service" before loading two trolleys with "super-Tuscan wines", including Sassicaia, a naughty £40-per-bottle Italian red, and white burgundys, at about £30 a throw. "He was jolly imperious. He said his Mayfair branch gave him 15 per cent off. We humbly agreed to 10."

WHAT now for Martin Sixsmith, the BBC man hired to spin Harriet Harman's career on to safer ground? "I must learn to call my boss Darling. New chief, new era."

Bottom's up
GEOFFREY ROBINSON, whose Tuscan hospitality has been shunned by the Blairs, has been crying into his drink. His local office in Guildford was granted a visit recently, when Robinson bowled up,

since 1974 by David Burnside, the former British Airways executive who featured in the Virgin "dirty tricks" scandal. Burnside, whose enthusiastic support for the Unionist cause matches any fire-and-brimstone rant Paisley can muster, is understood to be willing to stand for the Ulster Unionists at the next general election, in a bid to knock Paisley out of the political scene once and for all.

The Ulsterman Burnside is close to David Trimble and has played a key, if discreet, role in the peace process. Paisley's 10,000 majority might be vulnerable to Burnside after his "no" campaign floundered. "If Ian looks like losing he will call a by-election and try to get Ian Paisley Jr to succeed him," said a DUP man. Either way, it's nice to see good moderates taking over.

SQUIRING Julia Roberts and Brooke Shields around LA was but a dream for the young Liam Neeson.



The rugged Belfast actor, now married to Natasha Richardson (pictured with hubby), recalls that his days as a physics and maths undergraduate at Queen's University were rather quiet. "I couldn't cope with being away from home. I didn't drink. I didn't date girls. I used to sit in my room with pots of tea and packets of chocolate digestive biscuits, and I don't remember what the hell I did except stare at walls." Critics reported a similar reaction to Neeson's current portrayal of Oscar Wilde in *David Hare's The Judas Kiss*.

Left dangling
THE deposed Harriet Harman has been offered John Humphrys's shoulder to cry on for her first tearful "I was robbed" interview. Radio 4 is negotiating with Harman to feature her in *On The Ropes*, Humphrys's series of one-to-one post-mortems with high-flyers who have suffered career disasters. "She falls exactly within our remit," explains a helpful BBC type.

Still, Harriet will have to be patient. Radio 4 is not a station to alter its schedules and plans to kick off its new series with Derek Draper, whose difficulties now seem long ago. I hope he does not ask if she will move her children to state schools, which would be unkind.

WHILE King Hussein of Jordan is responding well to treatment for cancer, his daughter, Princess Haya, 24, (pictured with friend) is also in some discomfort. She has left her family to live in a one-bedroom flat in Muhlten, Germany, where she is training to become an Olympic horsejumper.

As Princess Haya has found, self-catering is no charity ball. "A friend came to visit and I wanted to cook him supper," she says. "First I telephoned our cook in Amman then I called my mother, then my sisters. Everyone gave me different advice. It was all so confusing. My father wrote saying that he didn't think princesses should have to cook."



critics wrangle over

Royal reform's all spice

The Palace needs no more celebrities, argues Tim Hames

The monarchy, Benjamin Disraeli mused more than a century ago, "is not the sort of matter that should be discussed in public." It would seem that some in the popular press and Parliament still cling to the same conclusion. On Saturday, the *Daily Mail* devoted all its entire front page to a forthcoming pamphlet from Demos, allegedly "Labour's favourite think-tank", on the future of the monarchy. Their story was followed up by numerous other media outlets.

This was an enterprising, if rather misleading, piece of journalism. The report has not even been finalised, never mind published. On the basis of a 100-word piece of advanced publicity, the newspaper felt it could declare with confidence that the final product would be the definitive new Labour statement on the House of Windsor. It also managed to find an (anonymous) senior Labour source who admitted that most Cabinet ministers agreed with its conclusions.

As the co-author of *Modernising the Monarchy* I would like to thank all concerned for their attention. I am flattered to learn that so many senior Labour figures are inclined to support a report they have not read. I have also been fascinated to discover the extent of my influence over new Labour: especially as my political outlook is rather closer to that of Michael Portillo than Tony Blair. I know that the Prime Minister has moved his party to the right in recent years, but this is ridiculous.

Even more daft, but much more disturbing, was the instinctive reaction of the Tories quoted in the article. The eminent constitutional historian Lord Blake condemned a document that he could not possibly have seen as "naïve and dangerous" and one that he disagreed with "very strongly indeed". Liam Fox, the articulate Shadow Cabinet spokesman on constitutional affairs, decided that this "cavalier" text spoke "from the very heart of new Labour" and revealed more of the "sinister intentions" of those dedicated to a "President Blair". Ouch. I am tempted to leave the country when *Modernising the Monarchy* finally appears.

When it is published in September the report will not be a blueprint for republicanism. There is no public desire for the abolition of the monarchy and it would be an act of extraordinary arrogance for an elite to impose a completely new form of head of state on the electorate. The choice is not between the monarchy as presently structured or a President Blair (or Hague). There is a middle position.

Mark Leonard of Demos and I will argue for a radically reconstituted monarchy that is more relevant to modern Britain and can find an appropriate and important role in the next century. We will argue that the actions of Buckingham Palace during the past year have focused on sharper public relations rather than a substantive reconsideration of the monarchy's functions. We believe that this strategy is undesirable and unsustainable: it will leave the country with an uncomfortable choice between the status quo and enormous change. Those who have encouraged the Royal Family in this direction are doing more damage to the institution than an army of republican fanatics could hope to achieve.

This is a case that should, ironically, appeal to Conservatives more than many members of the Labour Party. It could be argued that our criticism of Buckingham Palace's tactics over the past nine months — an exercise that has centred on associating the monarchy with as many short-term celebrities as it is possible to muster — is an accusation that the Royal Family has already adopted a stereotypically new Labour approach that must be abandoned. In most other areas of public life, the Tories have claimed that the Government is all marketing and no substance. Conservatives should have an instinctive suspicion of a monarchy that apparently thinks its salvation lies in photo opportunities with the Spice Girls: a group that has only been around for two years and has seen one abdication already.

Conservatives should above all acknowledge that, in Edmund Burke's words, a State without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation. The British monarchy is trying to straddle a number of increasingly incompatible functions: a significant formal role in the political sphere; the leadership of an established Church; and the conduct of numerous, essentially philanthropic, public engagements.

The tensions between these functions were acknowledged by the Prince of Wales when he spoke of his desire to be defender of all faiths rather than the Church of England alone and by the Princess of Wales when she expressed her wish to concentrate on the "Queen of Hearts" aspect of her life. They will become increasingly difficult to manage in future decades. When our pamphlet is published it will outline the steps that might be taken to achieve this transition. I hope that Conservatives will at least consider its recommendations. For it is those who think that the monarchy can be preserved in its present state with the assistance of a smooth communications strategy who are really dangerous and naïve.

JASPER GERARD

مركز من الأعمال



BLAIR'S BEASTS

A Cabinet more firmly in the Prime Minister's image

The executioner's axe had been hovering in the air for months and, when it fell, the mess was altogether bloodier than had been anticipated. Yet, while the count of victims is higher than predicted, the axe has been directed with clinical precision. Failure, particularly in welfare reform, has been punished. The authority of the Prime Minister over the Chancellor has been reasserted. Talented right-wingers, from both older and newer traditions within the party, have been promoted. Peter Mandelson now has an opportunity to emerge from the shadows and build an independent reputation. This Cabinet is now much more firmly Tony Blair's own team.

The ejection of Harriet Harman, and the departure of Frank Field, ends a melancholy chapter in the story of this Government. Free-thinkers who wished Mr Blair well had entertained high hopes of radical reform in social security. Ms Harman displayed great political courage but woeful tactical grip when introducing changes to single parents' benefit. Mr Field thought radically but found his projects shredded in the Treasury machine. Their own personal chemistry was more combustible than creative: it is a pity they became their own biggest casualties. The appointment of Alistair Darling, although widely trailed, is still brave. Elevating David Blunkett, closer to old Labour's roots but committed to reform, might have helped the presentation of change. But Mr Darling has his own merits. His intellect, grasp of detail and inside knowledge of the Treasury should ensure that he is a suitable foil to the Chancellor.

Gordon Brown, after a fortnight in the limelight, must endure stories of his eclipse this morning. The appointment of Stephen Byers, rather than Alan Milburn, as his deputy will be seen as the insertion of a Blairite trusty in the Treasury. The removal of Nick Brown as Chief Whip shifts one of the Chancellor's closest allies from the centre

of patronage. The Prime Minister aside, the Chancellor remains the Government's biggest beast. But he is less free now. The assertion of the Prime Minister's authority is welcome. But the need to assert such authority itself reflects the extent to which tribal conflict between Blairites and Brownites had become destabilising.

The Prime Minister seems determined to put an end to factionalism. The promotion of Jack Cunningham sends a signal that quiet work behind the scenes can secure glittering prizes. His elevation, and the retention of Ann Taylor, also indicate that the old Right of the party has a continuing role complementing the energy of more modernising ministers such as Mr Byers. Dr Cunningham should, however, beware. Whitehall is littered with the bleached bones of old "enforcers" and former "chiefs of staff". The melancholy example of David Hunt, and the failure of Michael Heseltine to lend coherence to the last Government should act as warning: He will need considerable guile to overcome the entrenched interests of individual departments, as well as the octopus reach of the Treasury.

The man most tipped for the enforcer's role, Mr Mandelson, should feel relieved that he has, instead, been given his own department to run. The DTI is a shrivelled empire, with a shrunken budget, but it deserves to have a minister in charge who is unambiguously pro-business. Mr Mandelson at last has the chance to prove properly enterprising. It should be noted that his elevation, and Dr Cunningham's, are promotions for two of the Government's most ardent European integrationists. Insofar as this reshuffle is a relaunch of Blairism it is significant that it has been designed with an eye to the European, as well as the domestic, market. But it is the domestic audience's verdict which will count. That is the one with the chance to wield the axe in three years' time.

INNOCENTS ABROAD

Legg exposes an inadequate Foreign Office

With his customary confidence Robin Cook did his best yesterday to draw a firm line under the arms-for-Africa affair that has dogged his department for the past three months. The central conclusions of the Legg inquiry had, the Foreign Secretary informed the House of Commons, confirmed his own view that ministers had not sought to undermine a United Nations arms embargo, nor had officials conspired to subvert government policy. There was no need to take disciplinary action against any official. Mistakes had been made, he conceded, but these were the fault of an imperfect management structure and an unfortunate failure in communications. These would be tackled through a 60-point programme that would be implemented immediately.

In a personal and political sense the Foreign Secretary has emerged better than might have been expected from the Legg inquiry. There is no evidence that any of the statements he made to Parliament about this affair were inaccurate. Although two of his ministers, Tony Lloyd and Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, came close to misleading their respective chambers, those errors were the result of inadequate briefings from their officials. There remain questions about whether ministers should have been more vigorous in the pursuit of more accurate information. Sir Thomas Legg did not feel that he should address such matters. The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee may still feel that further investigation here is merited.

The Foreign Office as an institution does not emerge well from this examination. The Legg inquiry records an extraordinary catalogue of blunders and does little to suggest that these might be the isolated failings of the Africa department. It would appear that senior officials operating in London and West Africa failed to understand the full meaning of a UN resolution

that Britain had itself initiated. The legal implications of an Order in Council were also the subject of some considerable confusion. As a result, Peter Penfold, the UK High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, acted for some months as if the UN embargo applied exclusively to the military regime that Britain had condemned and not to forces associated with President Kabbah.

This basic confusion was compounded by numerous other errors at several levels. Mr Penfold did not have the resources required to communicate properly with his superiors. The facilities available to him in Guinea were embarrassingly inadequate. There was no consistent policy followed with regards to Sandline International. It is not surprising that Tim Spicer thought he had the tacit approval of the Government for his activities. A sensitive intelligence report was simply destroyed by a relatively junior figure in the course of weekend duty. Media outlets in Britain, Canada and the United States all reported aspects of these events but senior civil servants did not take such stories seriously. None of this was deemed worthy of detailed discussions with ministers.

The impression left is of a Foreign Office operating in an amateur fashion. Mr Cook did his best to imply that Conservative cuts in funding and staff levels were responsible. His list of 60 recommendations implies that the deficiencies in management structure and style identified by the Legg inquiry involve rather more than manpower and money. The revolution in Whitehall management of the past decade has not been fully felt in King Charles Street. The modernisation of the Foreign Office is not a matter that should be left to ministers alone. Mr Cook has expressed a willingness to receive outside advice on the future organisation of his department. The House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs should not hesitate to offer it.

MOORE OR LESS

Critics wrangle over the reputation of Henry Moore

Henry Moore was a heavyweight. No other British artist's reputation has been more firmly planted around the world. His monumental sculptures are displayed from Brussels to Buffalo. His pieces slouch and squat in parks and public spaces, all over Britain. Politicians facing cameras outside the Commons pose before a two-part piece, appropriately titled *Knife Edge*.

In life, Moore courted controversy. A pioneer of British Modernism, he was still a student when, distaining accepted standards of beauty, he turned away from Rodin's sculptural tradition. Reviving the craftsmanship of direct carving in stone, he looked instead towards primitive art, to the enigmatic power of Egyptian, Etruscan and, later, Pre-Columbian art. His sculptural instincts, he said, were awakened as a child when he had to rub his mother's back to ease her sciatica, and in the 1930s he melded abstract geometries with memories of the human figure. Showing no inclination to please the public, he opened up carvings with concavities and spaces.

But after the Second World War, Moore moved towards a more naturalistic style. Curvaceous bronzes, cast from clay, created healing maternal figures which were immediately appealing to a war-ravaged

Europe and rapidly earned him international success. By the end of the 1950s, it seemed, the radical had been tamed, and though the harsh angular bronzes of that decade were menacing, Moore had become a wealthy man, his work rarely surprising once it had settled on its rules.

In celebrated older age he worked prolifically from his Hertfordshire studio, but increasingly relied on technicians. And where once his work had been designed for specific sites, he no longer attempted to suit pieces to surroundings. By the time he died in 1986 he had left his foundation not only some 11,000 sculptures, drawings and prints, but a financial fortune. The foundation has thus been the most influential force behind the resurgence of British sculpture. It has supported a Brit-pack of installation artists whose conceptual work finds no precursor in Moore's draughtsmanship and in his pleasure in organic form.

As a public sculptor, Moore may have proved that Modernist art could adapt itself to official needs, but in doing this his work became overfamiliar. It lost its power to surprise. Only time will judge if his reputation is merited. But as far as the contemporary world is concerned, less would have been more.

Police denial of an 'absence culture'

From the Chairman of the Sussex Police Federation

Sir, Your readers may wish to view in a wider perspective the bald and somewhat misleading statistics on public workers' sick leave issued by the Cabinet Office efficiency unit (reports, July 22, 23). Such statistics, so beloved of our ministers, seem not to take into account the often long absences from work caused by assaults, accidents and serious/terminal illnesses.

For some considerable time in Sussex, and I imagine in many other police forces, the management of health and sickness has been a top priority item. We employ a full-time specialist doctor supported by qualified nursing staff whose role is both to monitor protracted illness and, by offering health scans, to diagnose potential problems.

Dealing with malingers is a perfectly straightforward matter of robust management. Coping with serious illness and its after-effects calls for entirely different skills. All staff have return-to-work interviews — one-to-one sessions seeking to establish underlying causes of absence. Intolerable stress or domestic circumstances are often the issues which require managing rather than the sickness itself.

Any officer can have his right to self-certify withdrawn, but the fact that this is little used is an indication that the malingering problem is being exaggerated.

The officers I represent work hard, as do all the emergency services, in all weathers, often making difficult decisions in far from ideal conditions. Whilst there is always room for some improvement, I can only assume that Messrs Blair and Brown are unaware of the enormous effort that police forces are making. Any suggestion that we promote an "absence culture" is both damaging and insulting to the service.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ALEXANDER,
Chairman,
Sussex Police Federation,
Police Headquarters,
Church Lane,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2DZ,
July 24.

From Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council

Sir, I agree that we should find ways to motivate the minority of workers who take more than the average sick leave, but there is a much bigger problem on which we could be concentrating our efforts.

The country as a whole loses 30 million working days every year owing to avoidable work-related accidents and illnesses, at an estimated cost to UK plc of up to £16 billion — more than five times the cost of sickness absence in the public sector. We believe that these losses could be halved.

Managerial and organisational failure is responsible for 80 per cent of all work-related accidents. Common sense and risk management can design out that failure. By aiming for best practice, rather than the legal minimum in health and safety practice, the best organisations have achieved savings of at least 50 per cent through lower accident costs and insurance premiums, fewer lost working days, reduced sick pay bills and less money spent on training replacement staff.

If all annual reports showed the true costs of unplanned absences from work, shareholders and stakeholders would be less tolerant of this waste.

Yours etc,
NEED PURVIS,
Director General,
British Safety Council,
70 Chancellors Road, W6 9RS,
July 23.

Debtors and the law

From Mr Edmund Heward

Sir, Speaking in the House of Lords in 1867, the first Lord Cairns (later a Conservative Lord Chancellor) emphasised that imprisonment for debt was reserved for the poor (letters, July 15 and 25), and that the debtor usually had no property but earned wages. He continued:

After Lord Cranworth had intervened to point out that the order to imprison recited that punishment was inflicted only because debtors had the means to pay and would not, Cairns replied that this illustrated still further the absurdity of the practice. These recitals were not warranted by the facts. The only means a man had apart from his labour must be his property, and since the law provided ample means of getting at a debtor's property, the recital in a county court order for imprisonment could only relate to the debtor's labour; and as the order prevented the utilisation of this labour, the law defeated its ends.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND HEWARD,
36a Dartmouth Row,
Greenwich, SE10 8AW,
July 16.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Councils challenged on housing cost

From Mr Robert Whelan

Sir, Your leading article on social housing ("Labour's councils", July 23) underlines the bizarre through-the-looking-glass world of social housing.

It is not simply the case that the State — through local authorities — has failed in many areas and over a long period to provide acceptable social housing, despite spending billions of pounds. It has also managed to subvert and colonise the entire rented sector for low-income households through subsidy and regulation, which means that there is now very little real distinction between local authority housing, housing associations and the "budget" end of the private rented sector.

The Government gives approximately £2.5 billion every year to the Housing Corporation, which distributes this to housing associations. In return, the associations allocate housing in much the same way as the local authority, often taking nominations from the local authority's housing list, and using the same points-based system to measure need. This guarantees the creation of sink estates characterised by households where no one is working and none of the children has a father present — because these are ones which score the most points.

Thousands of people have now moved out of social housing and into private rented accommodation, sometimes to escape these sink estates. Of course the rents are much higher — but they are paid, in whole or in part, from housing benefit. Who would not take the opportunity to move up-market when the additional costs can be passed on to taxpayers?

The situation is so unsatisfactory that only a radical programme of reform would meet the case. In particular, housing associations need to distance themselves from the State and return to civil society. Their forebears, the philanthropic housing societies of the 19th century, of which the Peabody Trust was the most famous and Octavia Hill's the most remarkable, found ways of housing the poor with-

out subsidy and in ways which encouraged independence. It all hinged on close supervision and good management — both of which seem to be absent from much of the social housing sector today. Spending additional billions will not bring them back.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT WHELAN
(Assistant Director),
Institute of Economic Affairs,
Health and Welfare Unit,
2 Lord North Street, SW1P 3LB,
July 23.

From the Acting Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing

Sir, We do not share your scepticism about this week's announcement of extra government funds for housing. Public investment in housing had declined from around £14 billion at today's prices 20 years ago to less than £3 billion now.

Recycling the remaining £5 billion of capital receipts not only reverses this decline but puts right an anomaly that has existed for a decade — that councils have been forced to sell their houses but have been unable to re-use the proceeds to replace them. Not only that, but successive cutbacks have meant a backlog of much-needed modernisation that now totals about £20 billion. This week's plans will not put this right, but they will make a good start.

Far from being "lenient", Mr Prescott's message to councils appears to be "perform — or else". This is a challenge to which most councils will want to respond. Already many are making creative use of private finance in the ways you advocate. Your suggestion that councils should be stripped of their control of housing is not only impracticable financially but would receive little tenants' support.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PERRY,
Acting Chief Executive,
Chartered Institute of Housing,
Octavia House,
Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JP,
July 23.

London squares

From Councillor Justin Powell-Tuck

Sir, I fully agree with the Director of the Civic Trust on the importance of improving the quality of life for the inhabitants of our towns and cities (letter, July 18; see also letter, July 22).

However, I am at a loss to see how the pedestrianisation of Trafalgar and Parliament Squares will enhance life for anyone other than tourists — a vital part of our city, but they do not have to live here.

The potentially huge amounts of traffic caused by the closing of parts of these squares has been recognised by Westminster City Council, who have acted in the residents' interest by not

approving the Government's plans ("A lesson for London", Travel, July 4). All the more reason why the proposed mayor of London should not take on responsibility in this area, to the detriment of London's full-time residents.

London has seen enough of civic "do-gooders" over the years who have systematically destroyed community environments with their airy-fairy planning schemes.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN POWELL-TUCK
(Member for Millbank Ward),
Westminster City Council,
City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP,
July 21.

Aircraft safety

From Mr G. R. Profit

Sir, Your article, "Are you flying on a wing and a prayer?" (July 23), in my view sensationalised the discovery during a routine inspection of an area of corroded metal in the outer wing spar of a British Airways Boeing 747. Although deemed significant enough to be reported, it was not sufficient to raise any safety concerns.

Aircraft at the age of the 747-100 were designed to be fail-safe, ie, structural strength remains adequate for flight with any one structural member failed completely. The corrosion in this case was under 5 per cent of the area of the wing spar, well within the capability of the wing design.

The chance of being involved in a fatal aircraft accident from any cause on a UK-registered aircraft is one in 10 million.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PROFIT
(Group Director Safety Regulation),
Civil Aviation Authority,
Aviation House,
Garwick Airport South,
West Sussex RH6 0YR,
July 23.

Forces' training

From the Reverend R. C. Pager

Sir, Dr Anthony Hall (letter, July 20) may believe himself to have been "combat-ready" after only five weeks' basic training in Texas, but few if any professional soldiers are likely to agree.

An officer cadet's death is a tragedy indeed: but such training must be endured in order to prevent tragedies on a far greater scale — as every officer cadet acknowledges. Soldiers need to be confident that their officers will have the requisite mental and physical attributes to lead them under the most arduous of conditions.

In my own travels when an infantry officer, it was very evident that British training procedures were the envy of every other professional army. On one attachment to the US Army, for example, a day hardly went by but at least one (often more) US servicemen failed to last the course on the (admittedly unsoberly early) morning company run — much to the amusement of my rifleman, but despair of their senior officers.

Yours faithfully,
R. CAMPBELL PAGET,
The Rectory, 65 Maidstone Road,
Chatham, Kent ME4 6DP,
July 20.

Freedom of choice on living wills

From the Chair of The Patients Association and others

Sir, In response to the letter from Lord McColl of Dulwich and others (July 23), we would point out that the High Court has made clear that a competent adult can accept or refuse medical treatment "for reasons which are rational, irrational or for no reason". The purpose of a living will is to preserve this right for patients who become too ill or confused to make their wishes known.

A living will cannot require withdrawal of nutrition and hydration. That would be a demand for euthanasia and therefore illegal. The noble lords are confusing two quite separate issues.

A MORI poll in January 1998 showed the public in favour by three to one of making living wills binding on health professionals. Two thirds of the British public (65 per cent) favour legislation. Only one in five (21 per cent) are opposed to the Law Commission's proposed draft Bill.

We trust that the Government will enact legislation desired by the majority of the public which will enhance patients' freedom of choice and human rights.

Yours faithfully,
CLAIRE RAYNER,
Chair, The Patients Association,
HARRY CAYTON,
Executive Director,
Alzheimer's Disease Society,
NICK PARTRIDGE,
Chief Executive,
Terrence Higgins Trust,
PO Box 935, Harrow HA1 3YJ,
July 22.

From Dr David Shakespeare

Sir, Lord McColl and others provide a timely reminder that the findings of the 1993 House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics and the potential dangers of living wills are frequently understated in published debate on the subject. An advanced directive is not the simple extension of autonomy that it is often portrayed to be, as the conditions for informed consent are rarely met when taking out such a document.

It is often believed by those drawing up an advanced directive that it will be operative only when permanent incompetence ensues; but reversible causes of incompetence (such as confusion in the elderly caused by a urinary tract infection) may only be recognised as such if there is positive response to treatment. Such treatment might not be instituted if advanced directives were made legally binding.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. SHAKESPEARE,
1 Lower Park Road,
Manchester M14 5RS,
July 23.

Views on abortion

From Miss Mary Kenny

Sir, Baroness Warnock's question, "What sort of a life would this child have if it were to be born?" (Body and Mind, July 21), is not an honest argument for abortion. The logical answer has to be that we are not able to judge another person's quality of life, including their temperament, by means of speculation in advance.

For example, almost every "reasonable" voice agreed, in 1963, that thalidomide babies should be aborted, but my investigations suggest that, more than 30 years on, thalidomide people are no more unhappy than — in general, not much different from — able-bodied people. (What did make a big difference to the management of their lives was money — thanks to *The Sunday Times*' campaign, as it happens.)

The only honest and logical argument for abortion is that the woman does not want a child, or does not want this particular child at this time. Saying the child would not have a good quality of life is understandable as a self-deluding strategy for softening a hard decision, but it should still be recognised as a rationalisation.

Yours,
MARY KENNY,
Reform Club,
104-105 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5EW,
July 21.

Not to be sniffed at

From Mr N. J. Miles

Sir, Almost exactly 50 years ago I left school and began work as a laboratory assistant in the research department of a textile factory located at Marnhill, Gwent. There I was invited with 11 other volunteers to participate in a men's hose wearing trial.

The socks — navy blue in colour — were, I believe, the first in this country to be knitted entirely from "nylon66" yarn. We volunteers were required to wear them every day for six weeks, washing them each evening and submitting them for inspection each morning.

At the end of the trial we were given the socks as a present and I still have them. In recent years I have worn them only rarely but am convinced they are virtually indestructible.

Nowadays men's hose, manufactured from artificial yarn mixtures are unlikely to last five years, let alone 50. I wonder if curators of textile museums might be interested in obtaining a prototype for their collection?

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MILES,
34 Kings Road, Baling, W5 2SD,
July 22.

Winning double

From Mr Tony Knight

Sir, Michael Binyon mocks President Yeltsin ("Washed out Yeltsin under holiday cloud", July 24) for his success at trout fishing, "secretly ensured by underlings stocking the lake with enough fish to feed a biblical 5,000".

If President Yeltsin managed, in his first season as an angler, to catch both fish in the lake (see *Matthew xiv, 13-21*), then he deserves our greatest admiration.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY KNIGHT,
14 Mitchell Walk, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire HP6 6NW,
tonyk@mcmail.com
July 24.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BERNHARD HÄRING

Professor Bernhard Häring, Roman Catholic theologian, died on July 3 aged 85. He was born on November 10, 1912.



Häring: lifelong commitment to toleration in the Roman Catholic Church

Bernhard Häring was one of the late 20th century's most visible and accessible exponents of liberal Catholic thought. Nicknamed "the prophet" by his students in Rome, where he taught moral theology for thirty years, he was one of the leading representatives of the modernising tendencies that found expression in the Second Vatican Council of 1962-65. He will be remembered as a champion of individual conscience over authority, and as a defiantly eloquent advocate of tolerance on the part of the Church in matters of sexual morality.

tion of Pope John XXIII in 1963 a period of greater openness began. Häring, who in 1957 had been appointed to the chair of moral theology at the Lateran University, found himself vindicated. Personally congratulated on his book by the new Pope, Häring went on to play an influential role in the preparations for the Second Vatican Council. His ideas were particularly evident in the drafting of The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, which, in the description of the Jesuit scholar Avery Dulles, "adopted an evolutionary view of history and a modified optimism regarding secular systems of thought, thus terminating more than a century of vehement denunciation of modern civilisation".

KIT RUSSELL

Kit Russell, OBE, social worker and teacher, died on July 9 aged 89. She was born on April 6, 1909.



Kit Russell believed that all her geese were swans

A COUPLE of days after her death, Kit Russell's friends received an appeal for Time and Talents, her favourite charity, each letter concluding with a personal message. The charitable machine had just kept on running, as she would have wished. It was equally typical of her that, as a senior lecturer in social science at the London School of Economics, she had no interest in research methods, yet achieved a remarkable 90 per cent response when she sent a postal questionnaire to 2,000 past students with whom she had worked during a quarter of a century. That led eventually to the book Changing Courses. What was behind her loving interest in people, and the devotion they gave her in return?

run Southampton's first mixed youth club. In 1943 she joined Eileen Youngusband to help her to run a course in social welfare for allied nationals. After the war she was asked by their Institute to run an emergency training for almoners (medical social workers as they are now). Four years later, the course was replaced by more conventional training, but Kit's leadership was never forgotten. "It falls to few", the Institute's final report concluded, "to be so universally and so deeply loved".

TAHITI BILL HOWELL

Tahiti Bill Howell, yachtsman and dentist, died in London on July 26 aged 72. He was born in Sydney on February 18, 1926.

from being swamped by the curious results of decades of neglected British teeth. Born and brought up in Randwick, Sydney, William Belford Howell was an outstanding example of the twin urges of ambition and adventure which animated his generation of Australians. He had a first-class education at Sydney Boys' High School, the oldest secondary school in Australia, for which he sprinted, played football and captained the debating team.

After war service as a bomber navigator with the Royal Australian Air Force, Howell was briefly a cadet journalist, before deciding to use his extensive entitlement to a university course to acquire what he saw as a portable, profitable and socially worthwhile profession, dentistry. On graduating in 1951, he joined the throng of young Australians heading for London, a useful return compliment for the ships bringing hordes of sun-starved British

migrants the other way. Within days of arriving he had a job with an all-Australian practice in Hammersmith. By 1955 he had saved up enough to buy Wanderer II, the yacht made famous by the seagoing author Eric Hiscock, in which Howell and a journalist compatriot, Frank McNulty, set off on an original combination of buccaneering and public service: to finance a return voyage to Australia by visiting the smaller islands of the West Indies and the



Howell: compassionate dentist and passionate sailor

all without incident, and helped, countless patients whose health, undermined by serious tooth decay, had gone untreated for years. But these professional concerns did not diminish Tahiti Bill's passion for the sea. Back in funds again, he ordered a 42ft racing catamaran by the Hawaiian designer Rudy Choi, the first of its kind built in Britain, and in her in 1964, 1968 and 1976 he contested The Observer Singlehanded Transatlantic Race. He was unlucky not to win in 1972, when his yacht was damaged in a midnight collision close to the finishing line off Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1970 Howell and another journalist, friend, Murray Sayle, were placed fifth in the two-handed, oil-rig-littered Round Britain and Ireland Race, having missed Ireland in a gale by an uncharacteristic, too-many-cooks error in navigation. Howell's new yacht was at first called Golden Cockerel and thanks to a sponsorship deal, mainly liquid, with the firm of Courage, she carried a figurehead most often seen outside public houses. But on hearing that his pride and joy was being disparaged in yachting circles as "the brewery boat", Howell changed her name to Tahiti Belle. Until a few weeks before his death, from a late-diagnosed lymphoma, Howell was still making ocean passages and reassuring nervous patients. He is survived by his wife, Gwen, and a son.

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FISTICUFFS IN THE COMMONS... An extraordinary and probably unparalleled scene in the history of the House of Commons followed.

ON THIS DAY July 28, 1893... In the late 18th century Irish affairs could easily inflame the Commons.

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NEWS

Blair stamps his mark on Cabinet

Tony Blair stamped his authority on the Cabinet with a wider than expected reshuffle in which he sacked four ministers, restrained the influence of Gordon Brown and tried to relaunch his welfare reforms. He brought the Blairite Peter Mandelson, Stephen Byers and Baroness Jay of Paddington into the Cabinet and dismissed the Old Labour ministers, Gavin Strang, David Clark and Lord Richard. Pages 1-6

Top job for the Left's 'aristocrat'

Baroness Jay of Paddington fulfilled a lifetime of experience at the highest levels when she was appointed Leader of the House of Lords and Minister for Women. Known as 'an aristocrat of the Left', the eldest daughter of Lord Callaghan of Cardiff has been a high achiever whose successes have been tempered only by an occasionally turbulent private life. Page 1

House raffle farce

A competition to raffle a £600,000 house, announced last year in a blaze of publicity, has collapsed in farce and mystery with the main organiser going to ground. Page 7

Fairground death

A teenage boy sat helplessly beside his mother as she died of an asthma attack on a fairground ride. Page 8

High Street fraud

A team of connemen from the Continent defrauded investors of £6 million by running a bogus bank in a main shopping street. Page 9

Surprise dish

A long night took an unexpected course for the chef Marco Pierre White when he arrived home from work during a burglary at his flat. Page 9

Rape investigation

An investigation is under way into how a British soldier who raped and attempted to murder a child while serving in Germany was freed to return to Britain, where he attacked two girls. Page 10

Teachers' test

Students who want to become teachers should have to work with youth groups such as Scouts and Brownies to prove that they like children, a teachers' union said. Page 12

Angry pilot holds passengers hostage

A British pilot could face a kidnapping charge after holding his passengers hostage because no one would admit to smoking in the lavatory. Captain Brian Bliss kept 148 people in their seats for 40 minutes after landing at Milan after a smoke detector had been disabled. But when he called the police they took a dim view of his hard line. Page 1

Asylum shambles

Up to 30,000 asylum-seekers who have waited years for a decision on their applications are to be allowed to stay in Britain under plans to end the shambles of the existing system. Page 13

Fatal favour

A paramedic who died in a helicopter crash would not have been on the Kent Air Ambulance Trust aircraft had he not done a friend a favour. Page 14

Arms inquiry

Misjudgments, wrong interpretations and slow responses lie at the heart of the report into the arms-for-Africa affair by Sir Thomas Legg QC, but he clears ministers and officials of being involved in a conspiracy. Page 15

Question of truth

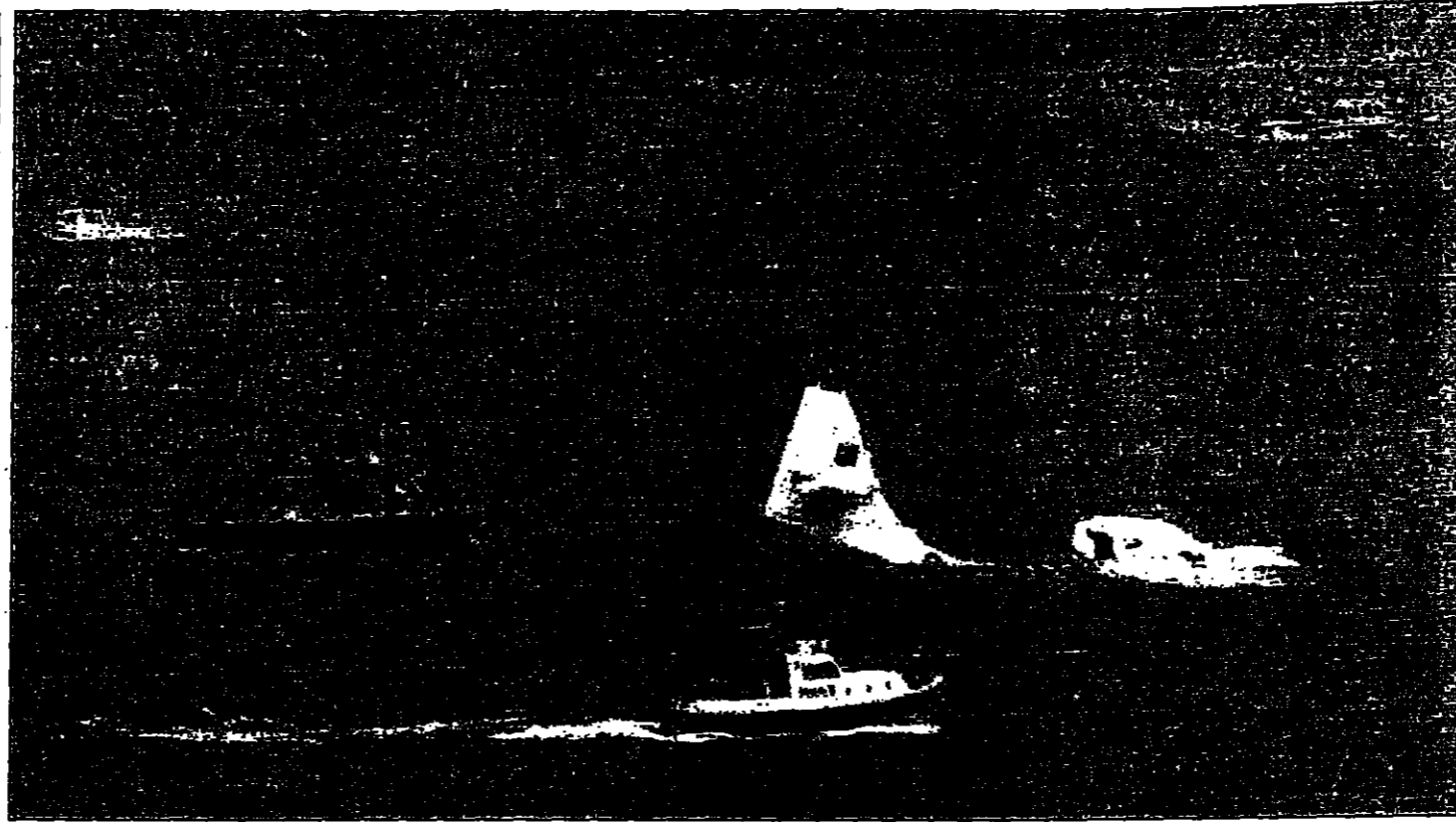
The main hearings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission will wind up this week with opinion divided about what it has achieved. Page 16

Bhutto in court

Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistani Prime Minister, appeared in a Lahore court to face corruption charges. Page 16

Clinton battle

President Clinton faced pressure from his own party not to fight a subpoena to testify in the Lewinsky investigation as lawyers sought a compromise to prevent him appearing in person. Page 17



A Catalina flying boat on Southampton Water after crash landing on a promotional flight. Two people died and 16 were injured. Page 8

BUSINESS

Savings: Government plans for the Individual Savings Account to be sold with the weekly shopping looked in tatters as Sainsbury's and Tesco admitted that they may not find it viable. Page 25

Regulators: BT and AT&T may have to give up capacity on North Atlantic routes because of US and Brussels regulators. Page 25

Whistleblower: TI GROUP, the specialist engineering company, has agreed to pay £7.5 million to settle an action over alleged overcharging on contracts with the USAF. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 56.2 to 5336.1. Sterling was unchanged at 105.5 after falling from DM2.9503 to DM2.9508. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: A stirring innings by Michael Atherton gave England an eight-wicket victory over South Africa in the fourth Cornhill Test match at Trent Bridge. With one match to play the series is now all-square. Page 48

Athletics: The selectors of the Great Britain team have omitted Roger Black from the 400 metres at the European championships next month. Page 46

Football: With the league season less than three weeks away, Manchester United have opened negotiations with Aston Villa for the purchase of Dwight Yorke. Page 45

Rugby union: Wendell Sailor, dubbed 'the Ronaldo of rugby league', will complete his move to Leeds Tykes today. Page 45

FEATURES

After Henry: To mark the centenary of the birth of Henry Moore, Richard Cork recalls a day spent in the company of the great sculptor at his home in Hertfordshire. Page 32

Tharp's boy: When the world-famous American choreographer Twyla Tharp was looking for a hot new dancer, she found him in London. Andrew Robinson has never looked back. Page 33

Blois mixture: The Royal Ballet's summer season at the Coliseum moves on to a mixed bill, offering a trio of choreographers and a whole stageful of stars. Page 33

Festival fare: Fifty acts drawn from 30 countries add up to Womad at Reading, Britain's biggest world music extravaganza. Our critic joined the party. Page 34

OPINION

Poor things: In America, mega-rich women are finding that money doesn't bring happiness if one doesn't know how to handle one's wealth. But assistance is at hand — a group has been formed. Page 19

Moral imperative: Thirteen years after she launched a campaign in *The Times* for better care for mentally ill people, Marjorie Winde, the Chief Executive of MIND, scents victory after a change of heart about the policy of care in the community. Page 18

Silent drive: It has been a turbulent year for solicitors. But the leadership of Phillip Sycamore has paid off for its members. Page 37

Beware, Big Brother: Secret surveillance is on the increase as police and other agencies rely more and more on undercover officers and computer technology. Page 35

The murder of two security guards is, unfortunately a common enough occurrence in the United States and throughout the world. What made Friday's deadly events different from others was the place in which they occurred. The United States' Capitol is the centre of that country's democracy. Page 21

Public workers' sick leave, social housing; living wills; debtors and the law; London squares; aircraft safety; forces' training; US heat-wave; abortion. Page 21

RADIO & TV

Preview: Would you buy a car from these people? Inside Story (BBC1, 10.20pm). Review: Peter Barnard on the unfolding of a D-Day tragedy. Pages 46-47

OPINION

Blair's beasts: While the count of reshuffle victims is higher than predicted, the axe has been directed with clinical precision. This Cabinet is now much more firmly Mr Blair's own team. Page 21

Innocents abroad: Robin Cook has expressed a willingness to receive outside advice on the future organisation of his department. The House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs should not hesitate to offer it. Page 21

Moore or less: As a public sculptor, Henry Moore may have proved that Modernist art could adapt itself to official needs, but in doing this his work became overfamiliar. Page 21

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES: Good morning, Mr Darling, and congratulations. I want to talk about babies. That thing in the door is my foot. Page 20

MICHAEL GOVE: Harriet Harman's humiliation marks the death of two great hopes associated with Blairism — a new deal for women and fundamental reform of the welfare state. Page 20

TIM HAMES: Conservatives should have an instinctive suspicion of a monarchy that apparently thinks its salvation lies in photo opportunities with the Spice Girls. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL: Some ministers who survived yesterday have only been given a reprieve, not tenure for the rest of the parliament. Page 6

Professor Bernhard Häring, Roman Catholic theologian; KR Russell, social worker; Tahiti Bill Howell, sailor and dentist. Page 23

Public workers' sick leave, social housing; living wills; debtors and the law; London squares; aircraft safety; forces' training; US heat-wave; abortion. Page 21



A photograph showing a scene of a crash landing, likely the Catalina flying boat mentioned in the text.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE: How shanty town kids in Rio are learning computers to get out of the poverty trap

HOMES: Do you need to have a public school accent to become a successful estate agent?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,855

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-26 and some letters filled in.

- ACROSS: 1 Fearful of attack following rejection of note (6). 5 Tramp's billet meets the bill initially (8). 9 Industrial action bringing pay reduction (8). 10 Worker at the border in part of Ireland (6). 11 Dog was so excited going after game bird (8). 12 Firm evidence of fish — it's present in river (8). 13 Workers whose problems are not properly addressed? (7). 16 Hurried to bandage ear that's pierced (7). 20 Mount high up in Jerusalem (8). 22 Bleating about having substance (8). 23 Team emerging one by one? (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20854

Grid for the solution to puzzle No 20854, containing words like PALINDROME, LOAF, TAROT, SONNETER, FINANCIAL, TUNGE, LIEDOWN, PANICKY, CULPRIT, BOHEMIA, REVUE, RESULTANT, MEDAILLON, ROUTS, LOOP, FREIGHTAGE.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

WEATHER INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions: UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910. UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410. HGVs 0336 401 747. M2 and Link Roads 0336 401 748. National Motorway 0336 401 810. Channel crossing 0336 401 805. Floating to Heathrow 0336 407 505. A Goodok airports 0336 407 505.

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Table with columns for City, Country, and various weather metrics like temperature, wind, and visibility.

Hours of Darkness: Sun sets 5:18 am, Sun sets 6:55 pm, Moon sets 11:06 pm, Moon sets 10:37 am.

FORECAST

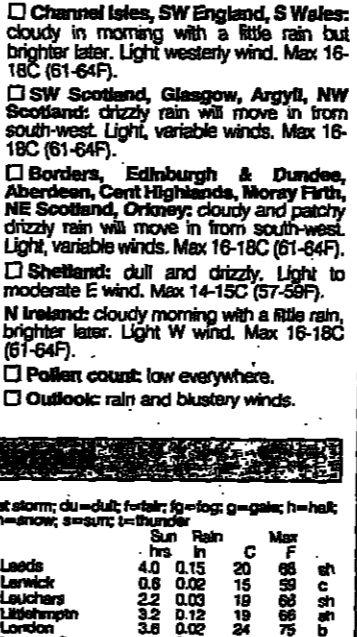
General: West Wales, Northern Ireland and West County will be cloudy this morning with occasional light rain, but slowly turning brighter. Western Scotland, East Wales, northwest England and West Midlands will start mostly dry with sunny intervals, but occasional drizzly rain will spread from South West. Eastern Scotland and England will start largely dry and bright but cloud over later with risk of rain.

Table with columns for Sun, Rain, Wind, and other weather indicators for various regions.

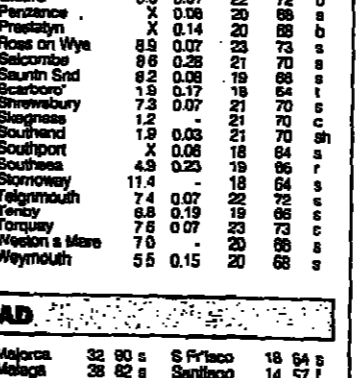
ABROAD

Table with columns for Country, City, and weather conditions for various international locations.

MOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low A will decline but low B will run E, then NE and deepen; low C will drift N and deepen; low D will drift around Spain changing little.



HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for Location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT, listing high tide times for various ports.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's Highest day temp: Barbours, Worcestershire, 25C (77F); lowest day max: Fife, Isle of Skye, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Bourne, Northumberland, 0.7in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, 11.4hr.

Perfect Day advertisement for Scoot 0800 192192, featuring a cartoon character and promotional text.

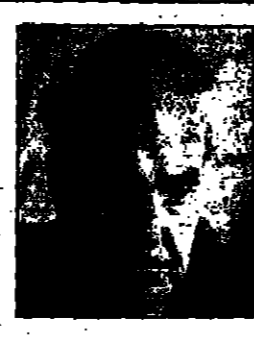
Bottom-most advertisement with Arabic text and a logo.

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Anatole Kaletsky warns the Bank of England
PAGE 29



ARTS
My day with Henry Moore: a centenary remembrance
PAGES 32-34

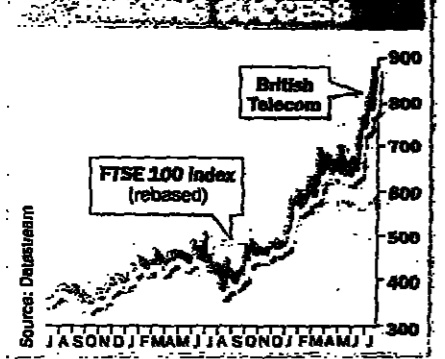


LAW
A turbulent year for solicitors — by Law Society chief
PAGES 35,37

FOCUS ON SMALL BUSINESS
PAGE 42

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft TUESDAY JULY 28 1998

Disposals may speed BT and AT&T deal



By CARL MORTIMER IN LONDON AND ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK
BRITISH TELECOM and AT&T could be forced to sell a large chunk of capacity on their prized North Atlantic telecom routes as the price to push their long-distance joint venture through regulators in Washington and Brussels.
The £6 billion venture, announced on Sunday, is expected to create combined market shares as high as 50 per cent on traffic between the UK and the US, a level that will raise alarm bells both among competition authorities and BT's rivals.
The European Commission regards a 40

per cent market share as a trigger point in their definition of market dominance, although companies with bigger market shares have been waived through.
The market value of BT leapt by more than 60 billion early yesterday as brokers celebrated the prospect of combining the customer base of the two telecoms giants into an international network. However, worries about a repeat of the British Airways-American Airlines wrangle wiped out most of the gain. BT shares finished up 43p to 868p.
The partnership claims about 20 per cent of the capacity on the North Atlantic, and City analysts reckon they may have to sell a

few per cent of their capacity to satisfy trust-busters in Washington and in Europe.
One analyst said: "Together, they could be very dangerous. The parallels with airlines are obvious: routes and landing slots across the Atlantic."
The joint venture parents are likely to notify the deal for merger clearance with Brussels. The European Commission recently forced WorldCom and MCI to divest their Internet business because it had a potential 50-60 per cent of the Internet network backbone.
The deal between AT&T and BT brought an immediate reaction in New York as US local telephone companies, Bell Atlantic and

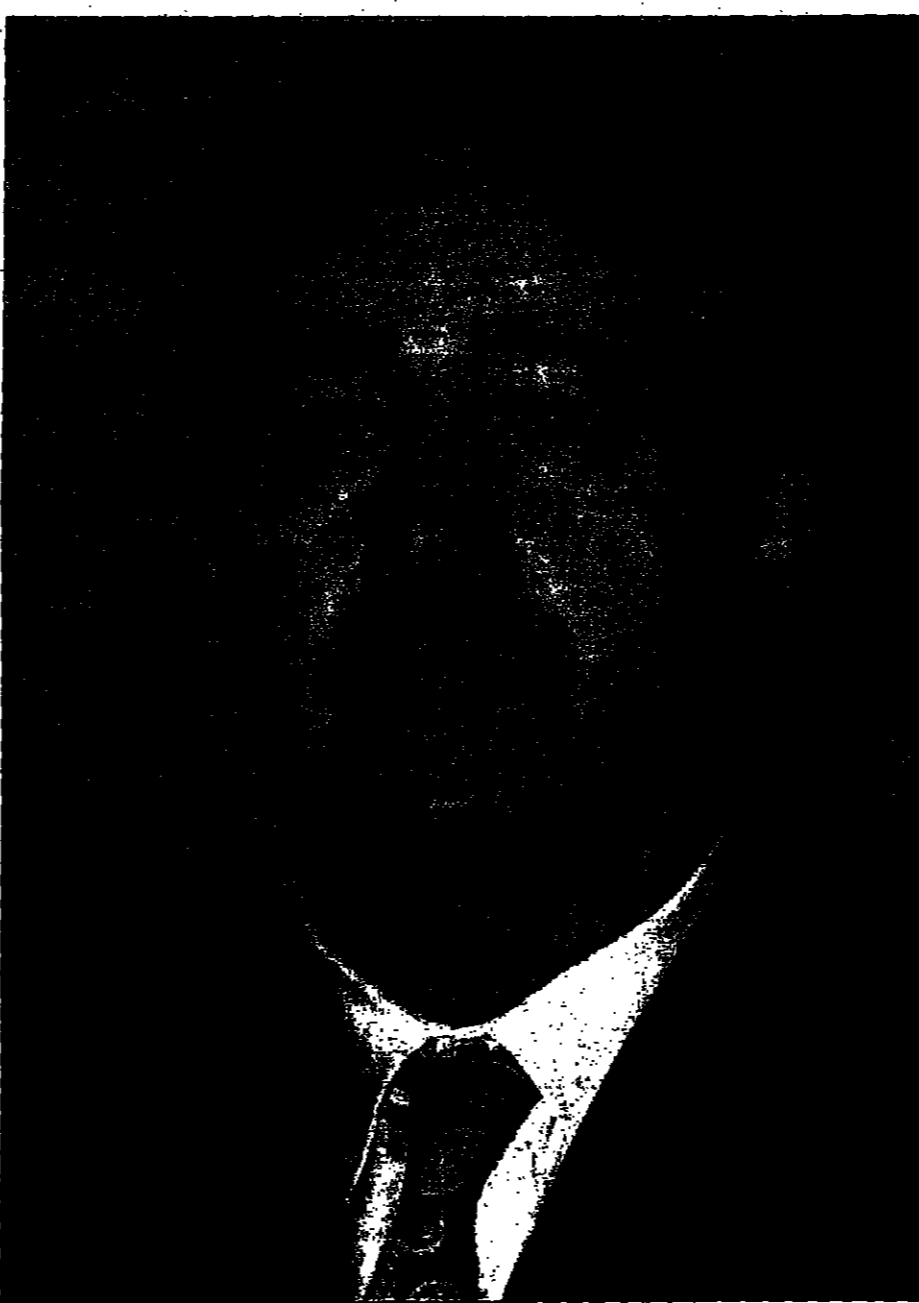
GTE Corp, revealed they were in talks that could finish in a \$55 billion (£33.3 billion) merger plan by the end of this week.
If the two companies were to merge, the resulting telecommunications giant would rank second only to AT&T in the US market. The combined company would have 62 million local phone lines and \$53 billion in annual revenue.
Atlantic has a virtual monopoly on local phone calls in the wealthy North East of America. GTE has local phone lines in 28 states, but also provides long-distance calls and mobile phone services.

Commentary, page 27

Beckett backs down on fat cat rules
By MARTIN WALLER
THE Government has backed away from direct control of so-called "fat cat" salaries in its long-planned reforms of utility regulation.
Recent weeks have seen a rekindling of the row over salaries of directors at privatised utilities and apparent leaks of plans to prevent further large pay rises by linking them to customers' bills.
However, Margaret Beckett in her swansong at the DTI said yesterday: "It is not the Government's job to set the pay of utility company executives."
Instead, she said, there should be a clearer link between the prices charged and standards of service, and between those standards and the pay of senior executives.
Mrs Beckett was publishing the decisions taken after the consultation period over its Green Paper on utility regulation, published in March. The main changes are:
● A merger of gas and electricity regulators into one energy super-regulator
● The retention of the RPI minus X formula that has governed price regulation since the various privatisations
● The appointment, at telecoms and energy, of new full-time executive boards comprising a chairman and two directors to replace the current structure of a single regulator

Supermarkets snub puts Isas in jeopardy

By CAROLINE MERRILL
GOVERNMENT plans for the individual savings account (Isa) to be sold with the weekly shopping looked in tatters yesterday as J Sainsbury and Tesco admitted that they may not find it economically viable to offer the product.
The revelation from the two supermarket companies comes days before final proposals for the Isa, the tax-free replacement for personal equity plans and tax exempt special savings accounts, are due to be published. If the supermarkets feel unable to offer the Isa, the Government may be forced to reassess the entire scheme.
At the ill-fated launch of the Isa at the end of last year, Geoffrey Robinson, the paymaster-general, emphasised that supermarkets would be the key to delivering Isas to the millions who do not save. The Government envisaged that shoppers would be able to make payments into their Isas at supermarket checkouts.
Although both supermarkets were initially in favour of Isas, they now believe that the complexity of the schemes makes them financially unviable. Rodger McArthur, chief executive of Sainsbury's Bank, said: "We believe that it is important to recognise the commercial realities in which the potential Isa providers operate. Sainsbury's Bank has the tools to help the Government to meet its Isa goals. But the Isa will work properly only if it is cost-effective for providers as well as customers."
Stuart Sinclair, chief executive of Tesco Personal Finance, said: "Like many in the industry we believe that the Government missed an opportunity to put together a basic plan to



Geoffrey Robinson emphasised the importance to the Isa of support from supermarkets

Clothing retailer looks at name change
By FRASER NELSON
LITTLEWOODS, Britain's third largest clothing retailer, is considering renaming all its high street shops as Berkertex in a final attempt to shed its dowdy image.
The company, which has been trading under its traditional name for 75 years, is trialling three new-format stores which have no trace of the Littlewoods brand either on the shop front or on the merchandise.
If successful, its 110 other clothing stores will be converted next year but the 140 Index stores will be unaffected.
James Ross, Littlewoods' chairman, said the new name has already proving a success in selling the higher-end of its fashion range and is lifting profits at its fast-growing home shopping catalogue.
However, he said shoppers in Belfast, Southport and Newport have given a lukewarm reaction to the pilot stores. He said: "So far, we have noticed very little difference. The impact seems to be made when we change the inside format, and sold Berkertex clothes."
Using the new name in its fast-growing home shopping catalogue helped the company beat industry expectations with an underlying profit of £110 million (£79.5 million) for the year to April 30.
Its football pools continued to lose business to the National Lottery, forcing profits from the leisure division to £19.7 million (£22 million).
Mr Ross said the company has now pulled out of talks to buy Zettlers, the football pools to bingo group.

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	5836.1	(-56.2)
FTSE All share	2217.1	(-23.11)
Nikkei	15844.36	(-417.55)
New York	8910.84	(-26.52)
Dow Composite	1133.04	(-7.78)
S&P Composite	1133.04	(-7.78)
Federal Funds	5.25%	(5.25)
Long Bond	106%	(106%)
Yield	5.88%	(5.88%)
3-mth Interbank	7.25%	(7.25%)
Life long gilt	107.74	(107.68)
New York	1.5670*	(1.5600)
London	1.6536	(1.6588)
DM	2.9609	(2.9507)
FF	8.8909	(8.8547)
SF	2.4787	(2.4794)
Yen	236.48	(233.05)
£ Index	102.5	(102.5)
Tokyo close Yen	142.38	
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$13.29	(\$13.19)
London close	\$29.45	(\$29.35)

TI agrees US settlement

By JON ASHWORTH
TI GROUP, the specialist engineering company, has agreed to pay \$12.4 million (£7.5 million) to the US government to settle a legal action over alleged overcharging on contracts with the US Air Force.
Jeffrey Thistlewaite, a former manager at Dowty Woodville Polymer, a TI subsidiary based in Derbyshire, "blew the whistle" on alleged overcharging of \$20 million involving thousands of contracts to supply wing slot seals for the B-1B bomber and F-117 strike jet.
Civil proceedings were brought

under The False Claims Act which encourages whistleblowers to report allegations of overcharging by contractors supplying the US government.
Those who blow the whistle are typically paid between 15 and 20 per cent of monies recovered.
Under US law, TI faced a claim for damages of up to \$60 million if a court had found against it. TI has settled without admitting liability. It says the terms are attractive and have been accepted to avoid the future cost and management diversion involved in litigation and to achieve certainty of outcome. The settlement is subject to court approval.
TI acquired Dowty Woodville Polymer as part of its £510 million acquisition of Dowty Group in 1992. A civil action was brought in the US in May 1995 — initially by Mr Thistlewaite and later joined by the US government.
The case is understood to be the first in which the US government has pursued a fraud action against a non-US supplier of components.

June lift for home loans

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT
MORTGAGE lending bounced back in June as consumers took advantage of a high street loans war — easing fears that the housing market is on the verge of a sharp downturn.
However, further evidence that the economy as a whole is slowing rapidly was provided by figures showing an unexpected rise in the number of companies going into receivership during the second quarter of this year.
The British Bankers' Association monthly lending figures showed

seasonally adjusted net lending rising by 13 per cent to £780 million, while the number of new loans made by the leading banks increased by 17 per cent.
Gross mortgage lending totalled £5.02 billion in June, the highest level since the series was expanded last September to include the converted building societies.
Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said that while remortgaging had accounted for about a quarter of the extra business it was apparent that competitive mortgage

deals had attracted plenty of new business into the market.
Separate data from KPMG, the accountancy firm, showed that receivership appointments rose by 4 per cent in the second quarter of the year. Mike Wheeler, head of corporate recovery at KPMG, described the increase as small but significant because the peak time for new appointments is normally in the first quarter of the year.
"Business confidence, particularly in manufacturing, has all but evaporated," Mr Wheeler said.

Insurance brokers regulator closes

By RICHARD MILES
THE INSURANCE Brokers Registration Council (IBRC), a non-statutory body which regulates an estimated 3,000 general insurance brokers, was closed down by the Treasury yesterday.
Helen Liddell, economic secretary, announced the winding-up of the IBRC as she gave her support to a self-regulatory regime for general insurance products such as motor and home insurance.
While two-thirds of IBRC members will be able to continue to offer general insurance to the public without regulation by Government authorities, about 900 firms could be barred from providing personal finance services such as life and pensions.
They are being given six months to obtain authorisation from the Financial Services Authority, the chief financial regulator which will ultimately replace the existing nine watchdogs.
The IBRC's governing council will be disbanded over the next three months. The Government also intends to repeal the 1977 Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act which gives IBRC members the right to call themselves brokers.
Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers, welcomed Mrs Liddell's announcement. He said ABI members would stop dealing with 150 non-registered intermediaries who had failed to comply with its general business code of practice, unless they responded within 28 days.

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Agenda for Mandelson



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Under the dead hand of Margaret Beckett, the Department of Trade and Industry has exuded negativity. If Peter Mandelson is to make the most of his newly acquired portfolio, he needs to instil a fresh positive spirit at Victoria Street.

Morse among the department's civil servants has sunk as Mrs Beckett has seemed increasingly loath to take the initiative on any front. The only time she appeared comfortable with her lot as President of the Board of Trade was when she was able to leave the office and curl up on the plumply upholstered banquettes of her caravan.

Mandelson needs to be proactive and, unlike his predecessor, he should make it clear that he intends to act for business and not against it. While the Chancellor of the Exchequer persists in criticising corporate Britain for being unproductive and paying itself too much, the new boss of the DTI should be promoting what is best in our industry.

It seems that Gordon Brown really is wedded to the idea of naming and shaming the poor performers in the productivity stakes. He is not the only politician to have been impressed by the headlines awarded to Helen Liddell's vigorous pioneering of the technique, as she publicly branded the culprits in the pensions mis-selling scandal; ambitious ministers have been sifting

through their departmental responsibilities in search of an issue that might allow them, too, to win public applause by naming the guilty men. But Brown is venturing into dangerous territory if he is to try and effectively pass judgment on the progress of managements, each of whom will be effected by a myriad of different factors.

The new man at the DTI might suggest that the Treasury should not meddle in such matters and proffer his own, more positive, ideas on improving productivity. Singling out the star performers and offering them as annotated benchmarks in each sector would be a far more constructive approach.

His aim should be to ease the way for businesses, and the people who run them, to succeed. He could help by demanding that Brussels acts more quickly when it examines issues affecting British companies. The delays that have beset British Airways efforts to link with American Airlines ticked by with not a whisper of protest from Mrs Beckett.

Since he is also retaining responsibility for the Millennium Dome project, it might also make sense for Mandelson to take on the other, rather more vi-

tal, Millennium problem. The Government has made pitiful progress in dealing with the imminent arrival of the millennium bug. David Clarke, whose responsibility it was, has now been sacked as Public Services Minister. Mandelson's undoubted spinning skills might be well employed in persuading companies - and government departments - that they cannot afford to assume that it will all be alright on the day the Dome opens.

Peps and Tessas ride again?

GEOFFREY Robinson has not been reshuffled but he may well soon wish he had been. The Paymaster General's pet project is looking increasingly like the sort of non-productive effort which would have the Chancellor going into naming and shaming mode.

The Isa was supposed to revolutionise the savings habits of the nation. When the concept was

first unveiled, it was a crucial part of the Government's strategy for reforming the whole of the pensions and welfare system. Those who had never saved before were suddenly going to acquire the habit of thrift, the multi-millionaire Robinson proclaimed. They would be able to clock up their savings at Marks & Spencer, he said, although he had omitted to check with M&S first. This was the dawn of super-market savings.

Well, perhaps not. A few months on and the Isa is being given a distinctly cool reception by the super-market groups. In principle, they will, of course, take anyone's money at the till. In practice, of course, they like to make a turn on the transaction. Geoffrey Robinson should understand their position. He may inadvertently sign accounts that declare erroneously that he was paid £200,000 but he is supposed to know a bit about business.

So he would surely sympathise with the view of those who are

supposed to be Isa providers that the cost structures as outlined do not allow them to provide a proper product and make a little profit. Insurers, including the mighty Standard Life, have already said that they will not be providing the insurance element of the Isa. Now Sainsbury and Tesco are apparently telling the Treasury that Isa needs rethinking if they are to be persuaded to act as providers.

Their position may be only a negotiating stance aimed at ensuring wider margins, but if this is to be a radical reshaping of the savings scene, then Robinson needs the supermarkets more than they need Isa. They can do good business selling food, instead of acting as piggy banks to people who, in the scheme as currently planned, would be able to deposit cash one moment and withdraw it another.

With the launch scheduled for next spring, there is now some urgency to the reconfiguring of the shape of the Isa. What is likely to emerge could look remarkably

similar to the Peps and Tessas, which Robinson has been determined to replace. The initial plans have already had to be embarrassingly changed to take account of those thrifty types who have amassed savings of more than £50,000 and whom, initially, Robinson proposed to deprive of further tax relief.

Corruption is hard to kill

Should puritans at the International Monetary Fund ever have imagined it would be simple to end the scourge of corruption, events in Kenya should have disabused them of the notion.

The IMF put such strong pressure on Kenya to start a drive against graft that President Moi set up the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (Kaca) last December. Ironically, the job of running it was given to John Harun Mwangi after he agreed to scrap his presidential candidacy.

On Thursday, however, Kaca launched a dramatic raid, netting the nation's top tax and customs officials and targeting two senior finance ministry civil servants and 11 other customs em-

ployees. Kaca alleged that they had conspired to deprive the Government of revenue by illegally warehousing wheat imports and waiving duties on other imports.

On Friday, Kenya's Attorney-General intervened and withdrew the charges. But the efforts to root out corruption did not end. Yesterday, Simeon Nyachae, the Finance Minister, accused Mr Mwangi of maliciously trying to embarrass him because the finance ministry had not released funds to run Kaca. Mr Nyachae then alleged Mr Mwangi was running a customs fraud.

All clear? We can at least conclude that the Kenyan anti-corruption drive has some way to go before it changes local culture. And remember, Kenya is not generally reckoned to be near the top of the graft league.

True match

INVESTORS reckon BT has met its true match at last. BT shares were marked up as eagerly yesterday as when Sir Peter Bonfield's first dynamic partnership scheme fell apart. All this presupposes, however, that the dynamic duo can avoid the endless regulatory scrutiny that has stopped British Airways and American Airlines consummating their strangely similar alliance. Plenty of outraged virgins will be anxious to make sure they do not.

Stylo warning heralds possible shake-up

By Rachel Bridge

STYLO, the family-run shoe and sportswear retailer based in Bradford, heralded a possible shake-up in its two-tier share voting structure yesterday as it gave warning that trading had been hit by poor weather and a flood of cheap shoes onto the market.

The group, controlled by the Ziff family through special management shares, also said that its dividend for the year could be in jeopardy if trading did not improve.

Michael Ziff, chief executive, said: "The family is reviewing the situation in relation to the two-tier voting structure. It is something that we are looking at very carefully. The business has not performed and so we have to look at every aspect of it."

He gave warning that poor

weather had seriously dented sales of summer shoes and that margins had also been affected by the closure of the British Shoe Corporation, which had led to at least 30 million pairs of shoes being dumped on the UK market at deeply discounted prices.

Mr Ziff said: "June has been a diabolical month in terms of the weather and it has affected sales considerably. People are not going out and buying sandals, they are making do with what they have got. There have been some very encouraging signs for autumnal shoes at this early stage."

He added that sales of Hush Puppies, a business which Stylo acquired two years ago, had continued to be disappointing and that the group was in the process of converting the re-

maining 38 Hush Puppies stores into its core chain of Baratts, Insteps and Barons shops. The company said that converting its remaining Hush Puppies stores into one of its other brands had generated a 16 per cent improvement in turnover, but the profitability of the business had been further affected by the closure of the stores while they were being refitted and rebranded.

Stylo said yesterday that it had recently appointed a new managing director and sales manager to its Instep business in an attempt to improve its buying and merchandising activities.

Arnold Ziff, Stylo's chairman, said: "Although this year's results are likely to be very poor and would be exacerbated by an Indian summer

following the end of our summer sales, which are now in progress, I am confident that the restructuring and rationalisation programme implemented by the board will result in a more focused and robust group, which will enable us to deliver our commitment of improving the profitability of our business and maximising shareholder value."

He added that the key selling period in the first half of the year was May, June and July and that while the company had hoped to pick up some lost sales in July, it had become apparent that it would not be sufficient to compensate for the earlier downturn.

For the year to January, Stylo paid a net dividend of 4.66p per share. Stylo shares fell 11.5p to 40.5p yesterday.

FTSE lifts Brewin Dolphin

By Paul Durman

PROFITS at Brewin Dolphin, the private-client stockbroker, grew 52 per cent for the six months to June to £6.2 million, boosted by the strength of FTSE-100 index (Caroline McNeill writes).

John Hall, the managing director, said the income generated by the firm's 22 branches rose 25 per cent to £29.5 million. The firm also bought the private-client stockbroker Wise Speke for £24 million during the first half, although the affects of the acquisition will not be felt until the next half.

The interim profits figure was ahead of the £5.75 million predicted in the offer document, Mr Hall said.

The firm would continue to seek acquisitions, he said. "We will look for companies that are a strategic fit."

Nigel Sherlock, the chief executive of Wise Speke, is to join the board.

Cortecs benefits row claims two directors

By Paul Durman

THE controversy over the level of benefits enjoyed by Glen Travers, chairman of Cortecs until last month, has claimed the scalps of two non-executive directors who were members of the drug development company's remuneration committee.

Leon Ivory, a co-founder of the group, with Mr Travers, and Lord Colwyn have resigned from Cortecs and its subsidiaries. Mr Ivory was criticised by the company when he defended Mr Travers's salary and benefits package, worth an estimated £750,000-a-year, which is said to have shocked Lord Patten and the company's other directors.

The package included annual benefits of £200,000 or more, that covered school fees, flights home to Austral-

Figures lift BAA shares

By Paul Durman

BETTER than expected first-quarter figures from BAA and an upbeat statement yesterday lifted its shares 11p to 67p (Timon Day writes).

Sir John Egan, chief executive, said: "At this early stage, BAA is on track to fulfil our expectations for the full year."

Profits rose £5 million to £141 million, on turnover up 32 per cent at £483 million, but would have grown to £148 million on a like-for-like basis. UK airport passenger growth was 7.5 per cent, with Stansfeld up 23 per cent. Strong sterling and the Asian economic downturn left UK airport retail profits only slightly up, but the inclusion of World Duty Free Americas Europe helped to boost the total by 7 per cent to £120 million.

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Stakis lifts occupancy at hotels

By Dominic Walsh

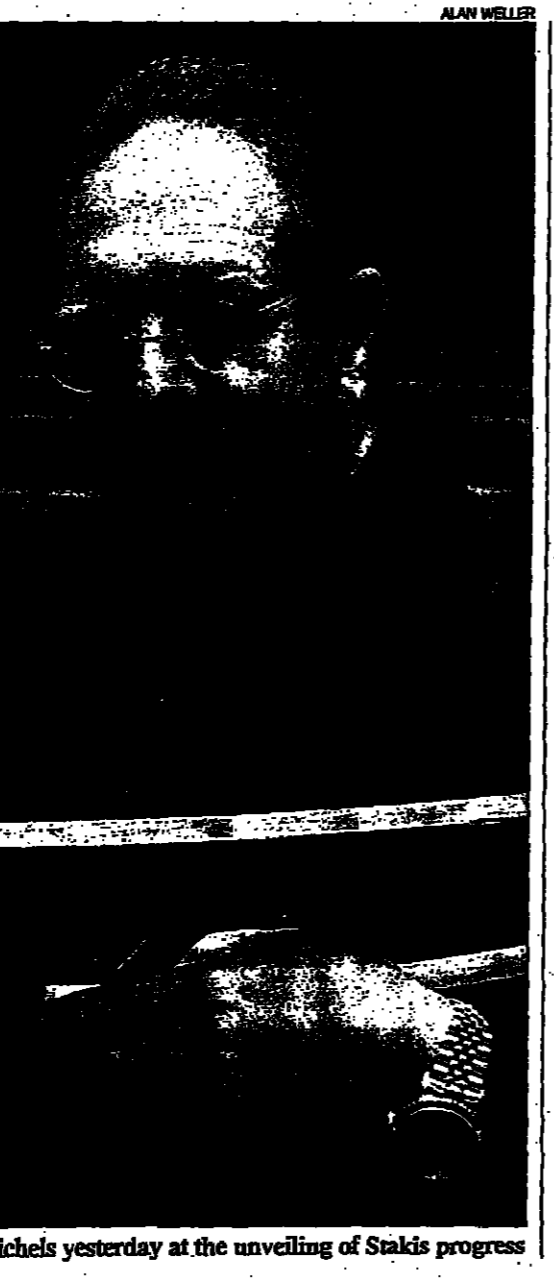
STAKIS, the hotel and casino operator, yesterday allayed fears of a slowdown in the leisure sector with a strong set of third-quarter figures.

Shares in Stakis, where David Michels is chief executive, rallied 3p to 114p as it disclosed that turnover in the 13 weeks to June 28 had risen 10.6 per cent.

The company's hotel division lifted its average occupancy rate to 78.4 per cent, from 76.1 per cent, while the achieved room rate rose to 63.13 per cent, from 58.44 per cent, despite some impact from the weather and the World Cup. These improvements lifted the crucial yield per available room to 49.51 per cent (44.47 per cent).

Stakis's casinos and health club divisions both advanced, although casino attendances were down 6 per cent compared with last year, when it held two big promotions.

Observers believe that the strength of Stakis's performance and the quality of its hotel and casino portfolio make it an obvious takeover candidate if sector consolidation continues. Stakis's own efforts to buy Vaux and parts of The Hotel have come to nothing, and its share price has drifted back from a high of 143p in May. "I'm amazed nobody has bid," said one analyst.



David Michels yesterday at the unveiling of Stakis progress

Snakeboard pays £3.5m for Primacy

By Chris Ayres

SNAKEBOARD, the disaster-prone manufacturer of "steerable skateboards", yesterday made another attempt to stave off a financial crisis by unveiling a £3.5 million deal to buy Primacy, the sports and leisure company.

Primacy, the privately owned holding company for MV Sports & Leisure and MV Sports, distributes skates, skateboards, scooters and bikes. It holds various distribution licences for brands such as Barbie, Star Wars and the Teletubbies.

David Lloyd, the former professional tennis player who invested nearly £500,000 of his own money in Snakeboard, will remain non-executive chairman.

For the year to December 31, Primacy made pre-tax profits of £681,000, up 128 per cent on 1996. Sales were £12.1 million. Snakeboard will pay for Primacy through the issue of 400 million shares to its vendors at 5p each. It will also pay £1.56 million in cash.

In addition, Snakeboard will raise about £2.5 million through the open offer of 505 million shares at 0.5p each. The company revealed pre-tax losses of £2.5 million for its first 14 months on the Alternative Investment Market.

The shares remained suspended at 0.75p.

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(c) Yeah, sure. And I'm Lord Lucan
(d) Where do I sign?

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Profit is worse than company's forecast Channel passes dividend

By Timon Day

CHANNEL HOLDINGS yesterday delivered pre-tax profits worse than its forecast in its January trading statement, down from £3.7 million to £2 million. The final dividend is passed and the shares dived 4p to a new low of 9p.

Andrew Bruce, the managing director, has resigned, but has made an offer to buy the group's CQR security division with venture capital finance. The price offered is about £1.1 million, which substantially exceeds the entire company's mar-

ket capitalisation of £3 million. The sale, if it goes through, would eliminate net borrowings of £9.8 million, up from £2.7 million. Part of this increase is because of the £2.7 million cost of acquisitions, with the balance funding negative cash flow.

Andy Dowthwaite, finance director, said that there was no immediate need for a rights issue, even if the security side were not sold. Gearing has risen to almost equal shareholders' funds.

Underlying security profits rose slightly to £1.3 million before a write-off caused by a customer who owed £700,000 going

burst. The debt, which exceeded group credit limits, has been written off as irrecoverable. The CQR managing director has left as a result and the remaining management team re-organised.

The Carlow car security operation is expected to pay only minimal damages if it loses its legal battle with competitor Linwood Security. Channel has provided £200,000 for costs and nominal damages.

Stuart Evans, the new chief executive, is to review the group's strategy.

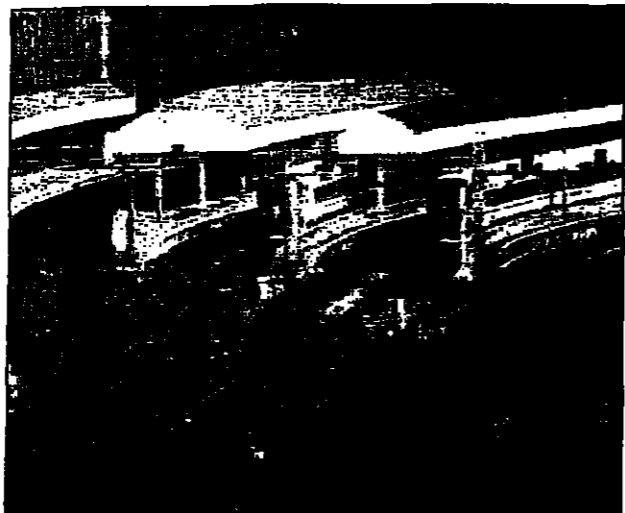
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STOCK MARKET

Stock Market Writer of the Year

British Telecom fails to lift shares from doldrums

EVEN a 43p rise to 86p at British Telecom could not drag the London stock market out of the doldrums yesterday.



Railtrack was a big faller with a drop of 77p to £14.06 ahead of a meeting today with the rail regulator

It was also the first day of trading for Zergo Holdings following a placing at 450p. The provider of cryptographic-based security solutions started at 457p before closing at 460p, a premium of 10p.

There was mixed news for Cairn Energy, which has been pitching for new licences in Bangladesh. Along with its partner Shell, it is participating in Block 5, but negotiations for Block 10 have been postponed.

News of the deal was quickly followed by reports that Bell Atlantic and rival GTE were also in merger talks which could create a company worth \$35 billion.

Over in Japan, shares of Nippon Telegraph & Telephone dropped almost 7 per cent, having been tipped as a possible suitor for BT. But shares of European phone operators were driven higher.

after Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, moved its recommendation to "underperformer".

Railtrack was one of the biggest fallers with a drop of 77p to £14.06 ahead of a meeting with the rail regulator today to discuss prices. A profits warning led Style 11 1/2 p down at 40 1/2 p, while Allied Carpet was suspended at 74 1/2 p after its results were delayed just prior to publication.

THE insurance composites no longer hold the appeal for investors they once did. As the interim dividend reporting season gets underway tomorrow with results from Guardian Royal Exchange, down 2 1/2 p at 356 1/2 p, they will have to pull out all the stops in order to generate support.

The chemical sector remained overshadowed by last week's profits warning from ICI, down a further 2 1/2 p at 710p. BOC, also down 2 1/2 p at 84p, BT 11 1/2 p at 450p, and Croda International 7 1/2 p to 327p. Albright & Wilson retreated 2p to 115p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, downgraded it to "neutral".

Preferred stocks are Guardian, Royal SunAlliance, 2p lighter at 665 1/2 p, and CGU, 19 better at £11.48.

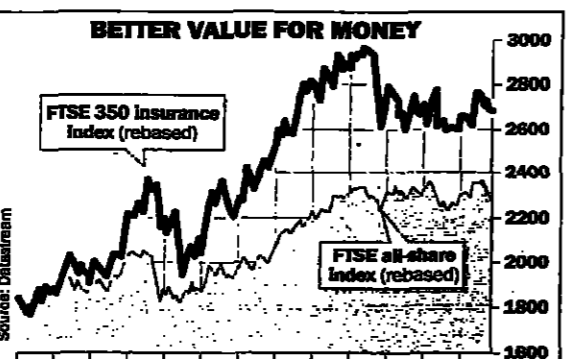


Table with columns for various stock indices and prices, including FTSE 100, FTSE 250, and various sector indices.

Table titled 'LIFE' showing various life insurance products and their prices.

Table titled 'LIFE WHEAT' showing wheat prices and other agricultural products.

Table titled 'LIFE BARLEY' showing barley prices and other agricultural products.

Table titled 'New York (midday)' showing various stock indices like Dow Jones, S&P Composite, and others.

Table titled 'Tokyo' showing Japanese stock indices like Nikkei Average and Hang Seng.

Table titled 'Amsterdam' showing European stock indices like AEX Index and others.

Table titled 'Sydney' showing Australian stock indices like All Ordinaries and others.

TEMPUS

Stansted passes Go

INVESTORS in BAA should draw comfort from the willingness of Sir John Egan, the outgoing chief executive, to comment on full-year trading at this early stage.

higher landing charges to compensate. Losing the race to manage Johannesburg airport to the Rome airport management team was a bit of a blow. Hopefully the company will do better in Mexico as privatisation proceeds there.

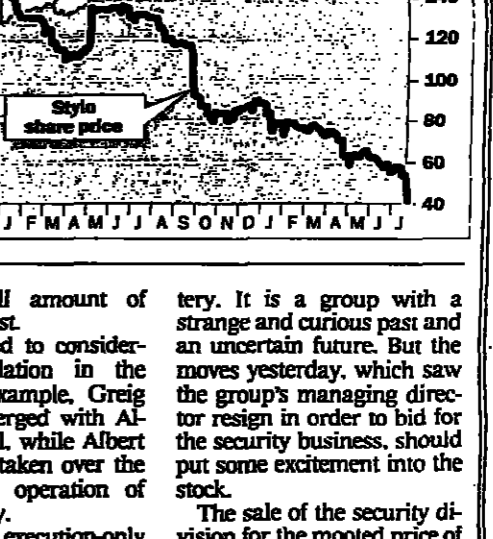
But 60 per cent of profits come from retailing and a recession would hurt sales of luxury goods, which are already suffering due to hard-up Asians buying less.

The disputed Terminal Five at Heathrow might be operational in around five years time. Despite congestion passenger traffic rose a creditable 5 1/2 per cent at Heathrow. Before the Terminal 5 decision is made, the CAA might acknowledge EU proposals that would remove the restrictive RPT formulae for airport charges at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Stylo

ANY HOPE Stylo has of defending its two-tier share structure weakened in line with its tumbling share price yesterday. The special shares that give the Ziff family 16 votes for every one held by Stylo's second-class investors has protected a mediocre management while the group's profits and share price have steadily declined.

Another Step Back



Brewin Dolphin

TRADITIONAL private-client stockbrokers are a shrinking band. The appetite for wider share ownership in this country has simply not matched that found in America.

Channel H'dings

FOR many investors Channel Holdings is a bit of a mystery. It is a strange and curious past and an uncertain future. But the moves yesterday, which saw the group's managing director resign in order to bid for the security business, should put some excitement into the stock.

Table titled 'MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION' showing various commodity prices.

Table titled 'LIFE FUTURES' showing various futures contracts and their prices.

Table titled 'LIFE METAL EXCHANGE' showing various metal prices.

Table titled 'LIFE RATES (%)' showing various interest rates.

Table titled 'LIFE MONEY DEPOSITS (%)' showing various money deposit rates.

Table titled 'LIFE GOLD & SILVER METALS (G & Co)' showing various metal prices.

Table titled 'LIFE Mkt Rates for July 27' showing various market rates.

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ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



Bank's sanity a greater danger to UK than Asia

The monetary policy committee needs to follow the example set by the Fed in America

Observed from America, where I am spending most of this summer, Britain's economic situation suddenly looks rather less perplexing than it did when I left London two weeks ago. The idea that Britain, or any other major country, could be heading into recession in the next year or so seems utterly implausible. One has only to raise one's eyes above the narrow preoccupations of the west Midlands metal-bashers and the ivory tower academics in the Bank of England to see that the strong outlook for the world economy in the next year or two should easily compensate for the damage done to British exports by the strong pound.

Looking around the world, the first point to make is that jeremiads about collapsing economies in Asia or the threat of a crash on Wall Street must be kept in the proper perspective. Asia, as this page has repeatedly noted, is an almost insignificant region in terms of its impact on global demand, especially if Japan is considered, as it should be, in a separate category from such emerging countries as Korea, Indonesia and China. The regions that really matter to British exporters are America and Europe and in both these continents conditions are set fair for robust growth.

America, which has acted since 1991 as the main locomotive of world economic recovery, as well as the main provider of technology, managerial know-how, policy guidance and risk capital, is still moving forward in an expansion that shows no signs of exhaustion. There will doubtless be a sharp slowdown in growth when the figures for second-quarter gross domestic product are published shortly. In fact some of the shrewdest observers are even expecting to see a fall in GDP. But this slowdown will be just a temporary payback for an aberrational period of very rapid growth, which briefly ran at an annual rate of more than 5 per cent in the first quarter, as overstretched retailers and manufacturers rebuilt their inventories and consumers went on a post-Christmas buying spree. Taking the first two quarters of this year together, America is still growing at a healthy rate of 2 to 3 per cent with no serious slowdown in sight. The main reason for confidence that this happy situation can be sustained for at least another year or two is that inflation remains completely dormant. And as long as there is no evidence of accel-



Professor Willem Buiter has shown some of the Fed's practical understanding

erating prices, the Federal Reserve Board will continue to design its monetary policy explicitly to maintain the growth of demand, regardless of the crisis in Asia or of any possible repercussions from a sharp setback on Wall Street.

Continental Europe, the world's second economic bloc and Britain's biggest main partner, is also in robust health, at least for the time being. The euro-zone is clearly in a phase of economic recovery after the long period of deflation in the run up to EMU. France, in particular, seems to be enjoying a strong - and predictable - economic resurgence because of the "franc fort". France has finally achieved its long-term ambition of locking Germany into a monetary union on competitive terms that will remain extremely favourable to French industry for many years to come. Not surprisingly there has been a powerful resurgence of consumer demand and consumer confidence (which is bound to be further boosted by France's victory in the World Cup). And with French hourly costs, including social security, holidays and other social overheads,

now only about 70 per cent of the level in western Germany, business confidence and investment are finally beginning to follow. BMW may be threatening Rover jobs in Britain, but it would be a very odd business decision if these jobs were shifted back to Germany, instead of moving to much lower cost locations in the rest of Europe, America or the Far

The British economy needs a period of robust domestic consumption

East. Yet even if Germany remains, because of its very high costs, the weakest economy in continental Europe, there are definite signs of improvement in employment conditions and domestic demand. The pickup in France and other neighbouring countries is helping, and even more important is the low in-

terest-rate policy likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future by the European Central Bank. As long as unemployment remains unacceptably high and inflation remains subdued in Germany, France and Italy, which between them account for 80 per cent of European output, the ECB is not going to worry about a mild outbreak of inflationary pressures in tiny economies such as Ireland and Finland, which account for about 1 per cent each of Euroland's GDP. Overall, then, the next year should see considerably stronger growth in Europe than the past 12 months. And with the euro still expensive against the dollar, the pound and the yen, in terms of relative costs and absolute prices, the benefits from a pickup of domestic consumption across Europe should spill over quite strongly to the rest of the world.

Looking further afield, to Asia, conditions also look much less gloomy than the pessimists suggest. In the Asian developing countries, the collapse of confidence and domestic demand is probably at or near its trough. And while an early or sharp recovery remains extremely unlikely, it is equally improbable

that conditions will continue to get much worse. Meanwhile, a substantial turnaround is almost certain now that the Japanese voters have disposed of the main obstacle to recovery - the former prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. Investors may initially be disappointed by Mr Hashimoto's successor, Keizo Obuchi, who appears to be just another Liberal Democratic Party clone. But I believe they are missing a crucial point repeatedly made in this column during the past six months. What matters is not who follows Hashimoto, but whether his fiscal policies are reversed. My view has always been that any successor of Mr Hashimoto's was bound to perform a fiscal U-turn. Indeed, Mr Hashimoto himself would have dearly loved to undo his tax increases, had he not been stopped by Japan's tradition that politicians must never admit mistakes. Now Mr Obuchi, despite his dull lacklustre image, appears to be doing his best to fulfil my predictions, with a promise of enormous tax cuts, to be implemented on an accelerated schedule starting in January next year - and, even more importantly, a firm commitment to suspend the anti-Keynesian law against deficit financing which Mr Hashimoto had foolishly made the bedrock of his political career. Under these circumstances, a strong recovery in the Japanese economy in 1999 is as near to a racing certainty as anything can be in economics.

Where, then, does all this leave Britain's struggling exporters and increasingly nervous retailers and suppliers of services to the domestic market? The greatest threat they now face is neither the strong pound nor contagion from Asia or Wall Street. It is the possibility that the Bank of England will go completely bonkers and lose sight of conditions in the real economy, a possibility so starkly expressed by Professor Willem Buiter, one of the MPC members, over the weekend.

What the British economy now needs is a period of reasonably robust domestic consumption and investment to tide it over the hiatus in export demand, while the damage done by the strong pound is gradually offset by next year's recovery in the growth of world trade. The last thing that Britain needs at present is a further tightening of monetary or fiscal policy that would crush domestic consumption before exports have begun to recover. With luck, the members of the MPC, Professor Buiter notwithstanding, will show a little of the practical understanding of economics that is taken for granted at the US Federal Reserve. If so, they will keep interest rates on hold at least until the end of this year and economic growth in Britain could prove as enduring as it has been in America since 1991.

Come back Botham all is forgiven, the sponsors need you

Some years ago I was invited for lunch at Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust. This venerable institution was then the essence of the old City. The topic of business soon bored the principals, who preferred to discuss cricket and in particular Ian Botham, who at the time was still the England captain.

"A chap like that should not even be playing for England, never mind captaining it," was the view of one senior F&C director. "He projects totally the wrong image."

Oh how shocked he would be if he could speak to the marketing gurus, scratching their heads over the state of our national game. The success of the England team at Trent Bridge was built on a combination of Atherton's grit, Fraser's trundling and the umpires' mistakes and watched by a less than capacity crowd. Many of those international companies who thought cricket was an exciting area to back a few years ago are now reconsidering their strategies, arguing that cricket has lost much of its attraction, particularly to the under-35s who, often, have never played the game.

The problem is that cricket is losing its youth appeal, it is becoming an older and older game," says Matthew Patten, the head of M&C Saatchi Sponsorship. Andrew Jameson, of the sponsorship consultant John Taylor International, agrees: "How many kids have spent this summer playing cricket? What the game needs is heroes, like Compton in the Fifties, Edrich in the Sixties and Ian Botham in the Eighties."

After the decision by Axa, the French-controlled insurance group, to pull out of sponsoring the one-day county cricket league in favour of its £40 million deal to sponsor the FA Cup (of which, more later), and Benson & Hedges' move to forsake cricket's second string knock-out competition for the glamour of Formula One motor racing, cricket is in danger of hitting a sponsorship crisis.

The financial structure of cricket in the UK is heavily weighted towards the international game and the counties are in danger of being choked by their inability to make money. The English Cricket Board, run by Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, recently calculated that the annual turnover of the whole of English cricket was less than that of Manchester United, and, five-sixths of the income is drawn each season from the Test matches and one day internationals.

Sponsors do not find playing four-day matches in the Britannic Assurance championship in front of empty county grounds attractive. While struggling Crystal Palace was able to sign a £500,000-a-year sponsorship deal after being relegated from football's Premiership, cricket sponsors could pick up quite a good county team at the beginning of this summer for an annual outlay of just £50,000.

The ECB has yet to announce a replacement for Axa, but this is the least of MacLaurin's worries. The triangular one-day tournament which starts next month featuring England, South Africa and Sri Lanka, proved particularly



JASON NISSE

stuck to find sponsors for. And the ECB has yet to sort out its full complement of sponsors for next summer's World Cup.

The ECB is looking for seven name backers for the competition. It has signed four, though two of these, Vodafone and NatWest Bank, are linked already to the ECB through their deals with the England team and the NatWest Trophy. Of the two others, Emirates Airlines has come in, reflecting the growth of cricket around the Persian Gulf and the appearance of the United Arab Emirates in the cup for the first time, and Pepsi,

MARKET LEADER

which successfully ambushed the 1996 World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with its "Nothing official about it" campaign, has signed up to continue its push into the sub-continent.

This leaves three places to fill. And the unwillingness of sponsors to commit at the moment reflects much of the uncertainty about English cricket and, in particular, how it will be televised in the future.

Lord MacLaurin has persuaded the Government to take Test cricket off the protected list of sporting events which have to appear on terrestrial television. This allows the



Ian Botham, the cricketing hero, in action

IMPULSE PURCHASE?

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Complaining hotel guests will be a thing of the past for Lord Forte

Tribute trouble

TINY ROWLAND'S sad death has robbed the world of yet another of his tireless campaigns, this time against the recently floated Lornho Africa. Tiny apparently had reams and reams of stuff claiming the assets were undervalued and whatever, all poised to appear as one of his famous printed tirades. I wonder what will happen to it now.

The praise of Tiny and his life over the weekend was fulsome indeed, led off by Donald Treflford, the former Observer editor who seems to be the family friend who first tipped off the paper. Appropriate, I suppose, that the story first broke in the publication

that was his mouthpiece for so many years, and that it should have triggered off a mad dash by its rivals to follow it up.

But I hear that the provider of one of those tributes is less than happy. Nick Morrell, the man currently in Tiny's seat as Lornho chief executive, said something anodyne to *The Observer* about not speaking ill of the dead, which was even picked up by another daily yesterday morning. Unfortunately, Morrell is uncontactable in the South of France and did not speak to any paper, according to his people in London. He is said to be seething.

AND now I suppose I should tell my own favourite Tiny Rowland story. Many years ago I was working for a financial wire service, on the night shift. Into a deserted office popped a fax from Lornho, concerning the Fayed family, for immediate dissemination on the overnight wire. It contained accusations so vile, so unspeakable that, frankly, you would have had difficulty believing them of one of the less reputable Roman emperors. As to the Fayed - well, I leave you to decide, but I know a libel when I see one.

In those days you had to mark up bits of paper with specialised squiggles for the type-setters and hand these to them for sending down the wire. I did this to the Lornho release



and then locked it firmly in a drawer. The next morning my editor asked me whether much had gone out the previous night. "Only this," I said, and handed him the marked-up release. I still remember the look of horror on his face.

Fat cat's big cat

GIVEN the row over utilities directors' pay, you might be amused to learn of the exacting requirements of one set of fat cats, the directors of Severn Trent Water. Chief executive Vic Cocker - brother, as they say, of the more famous Joe, the singer - and his fellows are most specific about the means of transport they use as they survey their kingdom. Their personal contracts, which I have before me, specify a Jaguar car up to four litres, with automatic transmission, air conditioning "and other

accessories that may be required". Leaving not much change from £45,000.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM is in trouble with the Independent Television Commission over ads for Lucozade, subject of a clever rebranding in recent years. The orange drink in the crinkly wrapper that, to my generation, always calls up days spent off sick from school is now an all-purpose pick-me-up for jobs.

As a result, the advertising has attracted the attention of the TV watchdog after complaints over two ads. One has a couple of women based on two down-market cartoon characters at a male strip show. This passed the ITC muster, but a second did not. This featured a group of mods on scooters, one of whom, quite audibly, utters a mild obscenity. The ITC insisted the ad be re-edited.

Vanishing Forte

SIR ROCCO FORTE was grumbling the other day that, although his family was bundled out of the Forte hotel chain two years ago, people still rang him to complain about lousy service. Poor lamb.

But his problems may soon be over, because the Forte name, which was one of the assets taken over by Granada, has been quietly disappearing from the hotels. The company is running full-page ads in *The Times* that refer to Heritage Hotels rather than the old Forte Heritage, and there is no mention of the Forte name in any shape or form. Further investigation



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DANCE
Local boy makes good

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
World music's big bash in Reading
PAGE 34



AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE awkward self-awareness of adolescence seems to fascinate contemporary artists. But this interest is only a resurfacing of past preoccupations, as at least two current exhibitions show. While *Angels and Urchins* at Kenwood House examines childhood through 18th-century eyes, a fascinating little show at the National Portrait Gallery displays photographs by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, alias Lewis Carroll. This is a glimpse through the viewfinder into a Victorian world of maiden aunts and Oxonian academics who stare out into the spaces of the gallery with an unnerving intensity, or simply turn away, indifferent, to pursue their pastimes. Their sepia world seems almost more real than ours.

Notably interesting is a picture of Reginald Southey, a Christ Church medical student, posing with the skeletons and skulls of apes and human beings. Dodgson sold copies of it at the time of the famous 1860 debate on the theory of evolution between "Soapy" Samuel Wilberforce, the Bishop of Oxford, and Darwin's disciple Thomas Huxley.

But though there are many such fascinating historical vignettes — portraits of Dante Gabriel Rossetti and his family, including Christina, at Cheyne Walk, for example, or George MacDonald, or two old aunts engrossed in a game of chess — most notable are the many studies of children, and most particularly of Alice Liddell. She was the little girl with whom Dodgson first picnicked by the Isis and told the stories which were to be published in 1864 as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. To contemporary eyes, alert to the menace of illicit sexual desire, a portrait of Alice coquettishly dressed as a beggar girl is the most overtly provoca-

tive, although Tennysen declared it the most beautiful picture he had ever seen. *Lewis Carroll through the Viewfinder at the National Portrait Gallery (0171-306 0055) until Oct 11*

LEOPARD, loon, buffalo, racoon, puffin, sandpiper and ptarmigan. The list of animals featuring in the annual exhibition of The Society of Wildlife Artists is almost as exotic as that of the creatures who humbly begged to build their homes on the hat of Edward Lear's *Quangle Wangle Quag*. Although the technical accomplishment of the artists represented cannot be denied, most let detail triumph over animation. The best of some 400 pieces on display are more about expression than accuracy, as in the case of Katrina Cook's dark etching of a cliff-face against which the nesting birds are barely decipherable, or David Cook's ceramic guinea fowl. But a vast, brooding vulture in sackcloth and straw by Nathan Javis effortlessly takes centre stage. *Society of Wildlife Artists at Mall Galleries, SW1 (0171-930 6844) until Aug 7*

AFTER Britart, what next? If anyone fears that the baton must now be passed to America, a visit to the ICA might quell their fears. Lari Pittman is one of the key figures in Los Angeles's razzily art scene. His vast, exuberant canvases trace a puppet's fraught journey through kaleidoscopic urban scenes to an early demise, or the gymnastic antics of hermaphrodite poodles in sparkling underpants. This show is as extravagant and silly as it sounds. But its Dayglo messages are outdated already. *Lari Pittman at the ICA (0171-930 3647) until Sept 6*

RACHEL CAMPBELL JOHNSTON

In the week of Henry Moore's centenary, Richard Cork recalls a day spent in the company of the great sculptor



Henry Moore at work in 1983: he said the human figure was the basis of all our experience, our sense of scale and touch — especially the reclining body, his favourite motif

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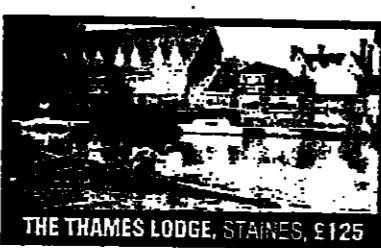
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CHANGING TIMES

A voyage round Henry Moore

Born 100 years ago this week in Castleford, Yorkshire, Henry Moore is still widely regarded as the most outstanding British sculptor of our century. But he is too often taken for granted. The sheer extent of his immense international fame can easily make him seem overfamiliar and overcelebrated. Only first-hand contact with the man himself could dispel such a view, so I am glad that he gave me the opportunity to visit him in May 1981. Researching a book called *Art Beyond the Gallery*, I wrote to Moore about a large carving he had made in the late Twenties for the Underground Railways Headquarters at Westminster. To my astonishment, he phoned early the following day and offered to show me some preparatory drawings for the sculpture at his Hertfordshire home. I took the train to Bishop's Stortford station and asked a taxi driver to take me to Perry Green. "Henry Moore?" he said immediately, as if nobody else existed in the entire village. And when we arrived, after a short drive through remarkably green, rain-soaked countryside, he told me to walk straight into Moore's house without even bothering to knock. The elderly secretary inside led me through to a conservatory extension at the back, looking out over grass where unusually white sheep were grazing. When Moore arrived a few minutes later, I was surprised to discover how small he looked. His photographs, invariably showing him beside monumental bronzes, suggested an imposing figure. But old age had clearly taken its toll on his physique. Supported by a stick, and wearing glasses that appeared slightly too large for his face, he seemed shrunken and quite frail. He wore a cardigan and a prominent blue tie, an odd combination of informality and dressing-up for visitors. Another grey-haired and hospitable secretary, Mrs Tinsley, bustled in with the sketchbook and we sat down to talk. I had been expecting a brief session with a man who had received so many visitors that he would regard my visit as a routine exercise. But even if some of what he said was probably a set speech, Moore expressed it with tremendous gusto and conviction. Almost without my bidding, he started reminiscing about how little sculpture he had been able to see during his youth in Yorkshire, before moving to London, a couple of stone heads in a Gothic church near his home were almost the only good carvings he came across. What a treasure-house London must have seemed, and how avidly he would have seized on sculpture of all eras in the metropolitan museums! I noticed that, while Moore was talking, his arms and hands never stopped moving. Everything he said was backed up by restless physical gestures — not bombastic but unexpectedly gentle, even feminine. He clearly felt his thoughts very directly with his body; and once, when emphasising how "central" the umbilical area was in his work, he clutched at the protruding flesh around his own stomach to drive the point home. I was impressed by the sense that everything he said mattered a great deal to him. When I asked him why the umbilical area was so important, he answered simply: "Because that's where we were attached to our mothers." By the time we got round to looking at the sketchbook, I had capitulated completely. Ten years before, I would have resisted the whole notion of visiting such a venerated figure, let alone being impressed by him. I had always hated the automatic deference that over-

came interviewers whenever they talked to him. But Moore turned out to be delightfully direct and straightforward, still the no-nonsense northerner who abhorred any pretentious talk about his work. He became especially animated and eloquent when I asked whether the many drawings of reclining women in this 1928 sketchbook marked the beginning of his obsession with this motif. He replied that it may have done, but then launched into a vigorous explanation of how all his work was wholly involved with the human figure, how that was the basis of all our experience, our sense of scale and touch, and how the reclining body in particular offered a sculptor so many rich possibilities and variations — far more than, say, a seated figure. I warmed to the passion in this octogenarian, still so eager despite his fragility. I mentioned Epstein's Strand statues as the kind of architectural sculpture he would have known when starting his own carving for the Underground Railways building. Suddenly, Moore became very vehement about the Royal Academy's refusal to back Epstein in his attempt to stop the destruction of the Strand figures. "I'll never forgive them for that," he said, 50 years after the event, "nor for the things said about my work by Munnings, the Academy's President. He used to carry a photograph of my Northampton *Madonna and Child* around in his pocket, and show it to people in order to mock it. That's why I'll never exhibit in the Academy. Hugh Casson, the current President, is far more enlightened, but would one ever forgive Hitler in view of what he once did? Fascism may have disappeared on the surface, but what brought it into being will never go away." Leafing through the sketchbook, he stared carefully at each page as I turned it over. His first idea had been a recumbent figure, but he soon abandoned it: he was, after all, supposed to be carving the *West Wind* and, as he pointed out with a smile, "a reclining figure might look as if the wind had dropped". It was fascinating to look through the pages of this 53-year-old volume with the man who had drawn them beside me, explaining how the female body gradually became more airborne and assumed the position seen in the carving. His memory seemed very clear, and he took particular pleasure in the faithfulness of the new facsimile edition. He even gave me a copy of it, "as a souvenir of your visit".

"I'll never forgive the Royal Academy for what they did"

When our time was up, he asked me if there was anything else I needed to inquire about. I wanted to say that I would be happy to talk all day. But he had already made clear that he intended to work in the afternoon, and I felt it was impossible to presume any further. After all, he told me earlier that he hadn't travelled to the recent opening of his Madrid exhibition "because my back is bad, and besides, doing my own work is the important thing". Maybe Moore suspected that time, for him, was fast running out (he died in 1986). Although he appeared so alert and energetic in spirit, his body did seem to be giving up. Travelling back, I felt grateful for the hours Moore had set aside and the close attention he paid me while we talked. I also wondered, looking through the cab window, why he had chosen to live in such a flat terrain. His sculpture implied that he favoured swollen, craggy forms. Maybe he found the low-lying country around Perry Green a relief, after giving shape to all that mountainous abundance.

A long way from Enfield

DANCE: Twyla

Tharp was looking for a hot new dancer and she found him in London. Donald

Hutera reports

A young man from North London walked through a door in Manhattan a few years ago and changed the course of his life. Or, at least his career. The man was Enfield-born Andrew Robinson, formerly a member of the now-defunct London Contemporary Dance Theatre and the Richard Alston Dance Company. The threshold he crossed was a stage door in New York City. The reason he was there was to audition for the world-famous American modern dance choreographer, Twyla Tharp.

"I was really nervous," Robinson remembers. "I mean, she's so huge. She's a legend. And when I arrived they were doing a cattle call, with like 400 people auditioning. I thought, 'What are my chances?'"

"So I walk through the door and there is Twyla, sitting at a desk at the front of the stage. The first thing she says is, 'How are you, Andrew?' And that was it. The ice broke. It was like, 'Phew!' Total relief. I could just do the audition and really work at it, because it was like she knew me."

Tharp, now 56, has been devising

For me, it's like every step I take is making me a better dancer

juicy, dense and fiercely eclectic choreography for more than 30 years. Her work has run a gamut from the vernacular to the classical, from the Beach Boys to Bach (a small sample of her savvy musical tastes), from museums and galleries to Broadway and Hollywood (*Hair*, *Amadeus*) and now back to concert halls and opera houses.

"I have to be smitten by them," she has remarked about her criteria for hiring dancers. "It's a gut response. They walk in and I have to say to myself, 'I have to watch this person, savour them, relish the way they move.'"

Robinson, originally talent-spotted in London by the retired Tharp dancer turned right-hand woman Shelley Washington, passed the maestro's test. He has been an integral part of Tharp's since this pack of fresh-faced, driven young dancers, now 13 strong, took its first public steps two years ago.

The company is now in London for two weeks of performances at the Barbican that include five London or British premieres, along with two revivals. The former include *Heroes*, Tharp's virtuosic meditation on flawed millennial iconography; the litigiously spiritual *Sweet Fields*; and the rollicking *Roy's Joys*, set to recordings by the great jazz trumpeter Roy Eldridge. On the "Greatest Hits" side is *The Fugue*. An austere but thrilling piece for a foot-stamping trio, it predates populist, percussion-based performances like *Stomp* by at least two decades.

Robinson was just a kid when *The Fugue* was created. The performing bug infected him at the tender age of nine. It ran in the family. "My Dad, Mum, brothers and sister were all involved in amateur dramas," he says. "Things passed on for the others but I just kept on going."

Robinson was one of Jason's Juveniles, a neighbourhood dance school held in a humble church hall. There he studied tap, modern, jazz and show dance. "But I was very laid-



Andrew Robinson: "You don't know what Twyla Tharp will do next. Each piece feels so different. It's not like doing one person's work"

back about it. I was going to be an architect. I didn't really think about dance as a career until I was 17."

He later rejected the more aggressively glitzy, West End-bound stage schools for a long stint at the London School of Contemporary Dance. "Auditioning there was my first experience of a big dance studio with a wall of mirrors," he recalls. "I'd never seen that before. And I hadn't really got much grounding technique in ballet. The only thing I had was potential. I think that's why they took me on."

"Physically I didn't ever feel I was gifted," Robinson confesses. "I wasn't naturally turned out or loose enough. I had a stiff back. The strength wasn't there." Even now, he says, "it's a continual battle to keep myself im-

proving." His attitude, however, is diligently upbeat. "Often people find themselves in a situation where they are just going out onstage doing a job. For me, it's like every step I take is making me a better dancer."

Robinson bloomed in the nurturing, family-style security of London Contemporary's school and company, organisations torn, like him, in 1966. From there he stepped over to Alston's troupe, and then took the leap with Tharp. He is the only British dancer in her company, and a senior member.

Tharp does not suffer fools, or slouches, gladly. "She keeps you on your toes all the time," Robinson

says, "but she also demands a lot of herself. What's great about her is you don't know what she will do next. Each piece feels so different. It's not like doing one person's work."

Robinson has matured into a stunning, even pivotal interpreter of the Tharp repertory. Long, lean and fast, he has absorbed her movement so thoroughly it seems to flow from the core of his being. He has also had the privilege of learning a duet with the boss for a series of lecture-demonstrations.

"On an intellectual level Twyla is incredible," he says. "I am in awe of her all the time. But dancing one-to-one is a totally different way of learning about someone." So what did he learn about Tharp? The

question temporarily flummoxes him. "That's a tricky one," he says, groping for words. "She is this myth. Like something... alchemistic. But you forget all that when you work with her, because it's about the process. I guess I learnt that she is human."

"Is there a choreographer who does the kind of work she does in Britain?" he asks rhetorically. "I don't think so. I think that's why I went away. It has ended up being much more than I'd hoped for. Twyla is inspirational. So it's like I've stepped out and opened myself to the world. It's a miracle, definitely. The fun is in the hard work."

Tharp is at the Barbican Theatre (0171-638 6891) until Aug 8

Bard goes down big in birdland

THEATRE

Mached *blong Wilum Selspia* is the title of the excellent Ken Campbell's latest work (co-directed by Toby Sedgwick) and I wish I had two days to write a review in the language in which it is performed: Pidgin. Only two days is required to master this tongue, now spoken by millions in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, but you would need two days to understand my review so it would never do.

Followers of the Campbell oeuvre will recall that for some time he has been exploring the possibilities of Pidgin, also known as Tok Pisin and Bislama, for its use as Wol Wantok — a world language. Those of us who become unduly stressed by the task of mastering tenses, moods and suchlike must admit the advantages of a language where you simply add *bin* if something happened in the past, or *bambae*, ie. by-and-by, if it is yet to come.

The language is said to have evolved in the sugar plantations of Queensland where the indentured labourers (slaves) brought in from neighbouring islands had the minimum of time to understand orders from their guards.

Setting out to find how Pidgin might work in drama, Campbell chose the play where the hero asks himself: "Me biglela jif bambae?" On come the Pidgin Players, chests smeared with paint and carrying didgeridoos that conveniently double as blowpipes. Each has learnt the entire text, and audience applause for their audition pieces decides who will play the leading roles of Mached (Roddy McDevitt) and Cook Blong Mached, which Tim Newton probably secured by showing how passionately he would dash out his sucking babe's brains.

The play that follows contains a generous sprinkling of broad comedy but such moments as the accidental death of the First Murderer, run through by the weapon that has already pierced Cook Blong Mached, turn out to be necessary intervals of visual merriment. For while Campbell's experiment is absorbing, enjoyment rests heavily on recognising the skill of the conversion into Pidgin, and the wealth of cultural history that the words of Pidgin disclose. Puscat for coward, bugarup for disaster and the assurance that "No man com thru hanbag killum Mached".

Compression brings amazing achievements: Banquo's seven lines on the temple-haunting marlet and his lord's mansionry become five words when spoken by Banekhu: "Pisen pigeon [bird], happy? Everyone happy." On the other hand, monologues can outstay their welcome, and the long combat between Mached and the ghost of Banekhu at the Krismus banquet leaves the other guests with nothing to do but stare at their cocoruts.

These are early days, however. McDevitt's wiry physique, urgent delivery and watchful swagger are good elements to bring to the role; the cast's performances are ingenious, sometimes disrespectful but never patronising; and the production as a whole is a delightfully exotic mental game. As for Pidgin's chances as Wol Wantok, well, nuances in orthology will be hard to convey.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Fish market filth, but is it art?

I told my friend that I was going off to see *Ubu Kunsel*. "Ooh, that sounds very rude," he said. As it turned out, his innocent, non-German speaking slip of the ear answered my question why Alfred Jarry's play, better known as *Ubu Roi*, had suffered a change of name.

In this new translation by Luis Alberto Soto, *Ubu's Ma* and *Pa* litter the bulk of their dialogue with references to, ahem, German art. There is also much discussion of "the little poky stick", a substance that sounds like "sit" spoken with a mouthful of grapes, and a word similar to "twit", which happens to rhyme more conveniently with "fat".

Whatever else he has done, believe me, Soto has brought the language of *Ubu Roi* bang into modern life; particularly if one's modern life is spent hanging around Billingsgate fish market.

Pa Ubu is a man monster; an infantile, amoral megalomaniac; a Macbeth without the qualms. Under the prodding of *Ma Ubu*, he kills King Wenceslas, and takes control of Northern Europe, massacring the bureaucrats and doubling taxes.

Although the kingdom rapidly deteriorates into war and military rebellion, the *Ubus* are saved by their own cowardice, and reunite to set sail for France. Since the coprophagous *Ubus* communicate in a gibberish of baby talk, violence, and artfully constructed filth, their actions are narrated by a meticulous actor figure. The story will be per-

formed by a company of three, he explains, because they unfortunately ate the rest of the cast; stuffed, honey-roasted, and so on, according to a variety of innovative recipes. The remaining characters are thus represented by a variety of household objects: the prince is a cheese grater, the barons a set of crockery; and the grand battle scene is enacted by a battery of kitchen equipment upon a bowl of plum tomatoes.

Soto, who takes the role of *Pa Ubu* for himself, is winningly repulsive and ripples with a vile cartoonish energy. At times his voice lounges into the accent of Michael Caine or Ian Paisley, with perhaps a little too much self-congratulation; inter-textual cultural references in an allegorical play within a play are anyway apt to leave any audience's head spinning in confusion.

It comes as something of a shock to realise that the characters barely move from their original positions throughout the entire play. *Ubu* spends all but one scene sitting on a chair, yet the action barely lapses and the sensation of having been witness to a variety of unnatural acts is absolute. This is a compact and suitably nasty little production, precisely played and exactly choreographed — but is it art?

HETTIE JUDAH



Leanne Benjamin, Tetsuya Kumakawa in *Don Quixote*

Mixed bills can be fun. A variety of choreographers offering up a variety of casts — for many dance fans it's a chance to get the most out of their ballet pound. On Friday night at the Coliseum, for example, you could have seen the Royal Ballet present MacMillan, Petipa and Christopher Wheeldon, a trio of choreographers who between them span more than a century of dance-making. And if the repertoire wasn't enough to attract you, there was always the possibility of a few stellar performances.

The evening did not start well, however. The revival after 12 years of MacMillan's *Concerto* which opened the programme was a dull and dreary affair. Indeed, it would be hard to imagine a less enticing reading of this 1966 work, which uses the three movements of Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto (solo piano: Anthony Twiner) to create three separate mood pieces of Neo-Classical dance. The First Movement offered Justin Meissner looking woefully out of place in the festive atmosphere, and paired him with the flirtatious Sarah Wildor, a gorgeous dancer who doesn't have quite

From dreary to divine in a single night



enough strength in her lower body to embrace MacMillan's skittish writing. Still, Wildor was dancing like one happy bunny, which is more than can be said for Michael Nunn, leading the Second Movement. The fact that he and Mara Galeazzi were last-minute replacements is little excuse for the inertness of their duet. The writing here is supposed to be romantic, not robotic, yet Nunn — unusually for him — was defiantly unresponsive.

There were no holds barred, though, when Leanne Benjamin and Tetsuya Kumakawa took to the stage for the *Don Quixote Pas de Deux*. Always an audience favourite, its circus tricks

(courtesy of Petipa) are in safe hands with this sizzling pair — Benjamin and Kumakawa are as flashy as they come. Happily, Benjamin showed no sign of the foot injury that has forced her to cancel her *Sleeping Beauty* on Thursday (to be replaced, incidentally, by Darcy Russell).

Wheeldon's *A Royal Ballet*, a work for two couples which pays homage to all things "royal", is a calming influence, perhaps needlessly complicated but attractive nonetheless, especially when danced by Bellinda Hasley and Gillian Revie.

The *Talisman Pas de Deux* is really quite ridiculous. Petipa at his most flowery, Irak Mukhamedov had a job keeping his performance this side of parody —

he managed, just — inspired, no doubt, by the beautiful Miyako Yoshida at his side. Her dancing was so lovely and so musical that it almost defied belief — a little slice of heaven to delight balletomanes in the audience.

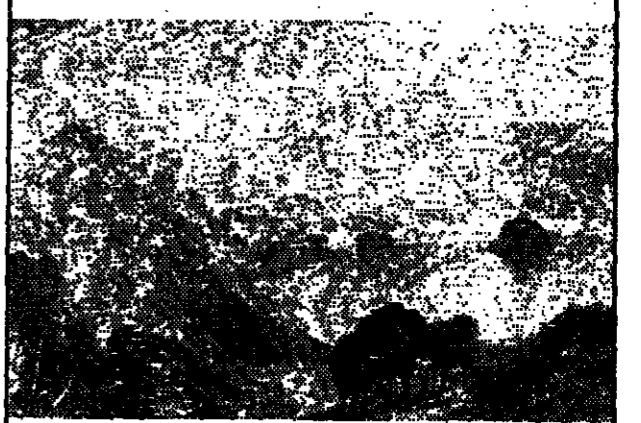
Raymonda Act III was the big number, the work many people had come to see. Nureyev's staging of Petipa gives everyone on the well-populated stage a chance to do their bit, with a Hungarian dance, a Grand Pas and plenty of variations. Heading the cast on opening night were the unbeatable duo of Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope. Guillem is a true aristocrat of the dance, majestic in her physical scope, mesmerising to watch. And she has tamed her Raymonda, bringing some of her earlier extravagance into line and giving Petipa's choreography a greater purpose than mere display. Cope, as usual, was the consummate, debonair partner.

On a sour note, there seemed to be a lack of communication between pit and stage, and for that one has to blame Andrea Quinn, conducting the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

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LISTINGS Love at the Proms

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RECOMMENDED TODAY

LONDON BEC PROMS: Mark Wiglesworth conducts three works inspired by the ecstasy and agony of love. The BBC National Chorus and Chorus of Wales joined by the Philharmonia Chorus perform excerpts from Prokofiev's Roman and Juliet, Beethoven's Fidelio and the world premiere of a work by Gerard McBurney, Letter to Paradise. Albert Hall (0171-269 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)



Bob Geldof takes centre stage at the Stockton Festival

THANKS The American modern dance choreographer Twyla Tharp arrives here with her new company and two triple bills. Programme 1, opening tonight, contains the UK premiere of her two latest works: Yamsaya, a work for nine dancers set to the vibrant sounds of Afro-Cuban music, and Roy's Eyes, a solo recording by the jazz trumpeter Roy Eldridge. The evening concludes with the popular The Fugue. Stockton (0171-282 6991). Tonight, 7.45pm. (2)

BLOOD BROTHERS: Why Russell's award-winning musical celebrates its 10th birthday tonight. His Johnstone is currently played by the singer Lam Pat. In keeping with the tradition of musicals, the production is being directed by the original author, Alan Ayckbourn. Phoenix (0171-369 1738). Tonight, 7.45pm. (2)

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: The European Chamber Opera brings a production of Donizetti's tragic masterpiece to Holland Park. Tommaso Pasicki conducts the ECO Chorus and Orchestra. Lucie Arnott, de Jong and Suzannah Clark in the roles of Enrico and Lucia. Holland Park Theatre, W8 (0171-602 7858). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- ELSEWHERE HARROGATE: Lesley Garrett, this year's artist in residence at the international festival, sings an assortment of songs by Handel, Carols, Richard Strauss, Copland, Tchaikovsky, Grieg and Dvorak. Festival Box Office: (01423 565757). STOCKTON: Bob Geldof brings his band the Happy Clubbers to the Stockton International Festival for an evening of musical entertainment. With support from the folk, pop and jazz-influenced festival. Festival Box Office: (01642 333936).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

- ANIMAL FARM (U): Revival of Hebra and Sachar's satirical comedy. A British animation landmark completed in 1954. THE CASTLE (15): Obscure, off-beat Australian comedy about a family fighting the compulsory purchase of their house. DANCE OF THE WIND (U): Delicate drama about a classical Indian singer who loses her voice. Director, Rajan Khosla. With Ritu Ghatak. THE DAYTRIPPERS (15): Likeable low-budget comedy about suburbanites travelling into Manhattan to confront an errand. Directed by John Dahl. With David Hyde Pierce, Parker Posey and Liv Ullmann. Director, Greg Mottola. THE GINGERBREAD MAN (12): Successful Savannah lawyer Kenneth Branagh is lured into trouble by a femme fatale (Embeth Dattner). Atmospheric treatment of a John Grisham story by director Robert Altman. LA GRANDE ILLUSION (U): Renoir's grand prize camp drama of 1937. With Pierre Fresnay, Jean Gabin, and Hesselbarth as the Prussian camp commandant.

An hour's drive down the M4 to Reading on a weekend in July and you can find yourself in the Malagasy rain-forest, a South African township or a Turkish bazaar. You can dump the kids in an Ndebele village where they will learn to paint ancient tribal designs while you take a musical visit to the heart of the Congo, an Indian ashram or a Pacific Island where the international dateline meets the Equator. And that, intrepid traveller, is just the itinerary for day one. Welcome to Planet Womad.



POP

With half a dozen stages and 50 acts drawn from 30 countries, Britain's leading world music extravaganza is quite unlike any other event in the pop calendar. In the course of three days you can not only circumnavigate the musical globe but also take in a play about Third World debt, sign up for a Tai Chi class and join a World Development Movement seminar on calling the multinationals to account. Alongside the sleeping bag, the most essential pieces of equipment to pack are a social conscience and a decent attitude.



Partying tub-thumpers: Dambert Nibacon of those loveable anarchists Chumbawamba, Womad's unlikely bill-toppers

ever heard at the local taverna. An anarchist commune in Leeds was perhaps a strange place to end the evening but we were ready for a party after our travels and up stepped those loveable anarchists Chumbawamba with their raucous mixture of politics and pop. They were unlikely Womad bill-toppers, but their tub-thumping spirit soon won over all but the most narrow-minded world music purists.

Then it was back to Africa, first with the reflective jazz piano moods of Abdullah Ibrahim and then with the rich harmonies and spectacular Zulu dancing of Ladysmith Black Mambazo. By Sunday we were off again in search of new frontiers, finding ourselves in a So-malian suk with Maryam Mursal, and a gypsy village in Romania with the band Fauna. Closeria playing crazed polkas and demented Abba songs.

The Islamic world was represented by Pakistan's Te Rizevan Qawwali Group, still in their teens but proving already to be masters of Sufi devo-

otional singing, and B'Net Houariyal from Morocco were a revelation with their Berber songs and percussion. The last evening turned into one huge global dance party featuring the accordionist Fiacco Jimenez with his wild TexMex rhythms, the home-grown Faithless with some stirring house and hip hop beats and Pato Pena's passionate display of flamenco. Back in the office on Monday morning someone asks what you did at the weekend. They wouldn't believe you even if you began to tell them.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

It is a peculiar kind of fame which Marc Almond still commands after nearly two decades in music. Despite maintaining a low commercial profile for most of the 1990s and having no new album to promote until next year, the former Soft Cell singer has sold out an impressive ten-night residency at Islington's 300-seat Almeida Theatre. Devotees travelled from all over Europe for these highly coveted seats, and plans are afoot to stage a similar West End run in December.

And yet last Thursday's show was far from some nostalgic greatest hits package and more like a restatement of the experimental agenda which first brought Almond chart-topping success as long ago as 1981. The singer's attitude to stardom has always been ambivalent, and his chequered history on half a dozen different record labels has resulted as much from self-destructive perversity as ill-fortune. His songbook includes highly commercial collections of orchestral disco, obscure European cover versions and diversions into electronic noise. But with new management and the label Echo, this iconic pop survivor may finally have found the cultish niche to suit his wayward talent.

Almond's current performance style lacks some of the showmanship of old. But his torrid lyrics remain rooted in a lurid nocturnal cityscape of sleazy sex and lost souls partly inspired by his hero, Jacques Brel, even if a new maturity and subtlety informs some of the most recent compositions. Self-mocking wit and charm carried the singer through even the weaker numbers.

STEPHEN DALTON

PROMS: John Allison on the moving Kurt Weill work receiving a belated British premiere at the Albert Hall

Neglected though much of Weill's output may still be, the number of his works waiting to be heard in this country is steadily diminishing. Another milestone was reached on Sunday when *Propheten*, premiered in Vienna only two months ago, received its first British performance at the Proms, though some loose ends surrounding the work still remain.

Composed mostly before Weill fled Nazi Germany in the mid-Thirties, the pageant-oratorio *Der Weg der Verheissung* ("The Road of Promise") is a four-part epic of 4,000 years of Jewish history that in effect still awaits its premiere: the first three parts were staged in New York in 1937 as *The Eternal Road*, and the finale abandoned. That fourth part, entitled *Propheten*, has now been edited by the Weill scholar David Drew and orchestrated by the Israeli composer Noam Sheriff, and this performance

at the Proms was curiously fitting given that the Albert Hall was the venue first considered for the entire work's premiere more than 60 years ago. Indeed, this event was curious in many ways, not least for the extraordinary impact made by a work so unwieldy and uneven. A masterpiece it is not, and the demands it makes on a vast orchestra, chorus, children's chorus, soloists and speakers do not help to make it easily viable; yet this BBC Symphony Orchestra performance under Matthias Bamert was both powerful and haunting, not least because of the sense of premonition in Weill's setting of terrible biblical prophecies which would soon be fulfilled by the Holocaust.

Though the piece stands apart in Weill's own oeuvre, most of his diverse styles are echoed somewhere in the score: the opening, prefaced here appropriately by Weill's arrangement of *Hebrews*, reflects the more severe side of his sound-world, and the biggest number of all, featuring the timeless *Voices of Solomon*, points the way towards his last musical, *Lost in the Stars*. Orchestra and the excellent choir (BBC Symphony Chorus and the Finchley Children's Music Group) relished all the opportunities the piece gave them.

This performance, complete with lighting effects and the main characters costumed, made special use of the Albert Hall's space, and some of the resulting amplification distorted the balance. But the central figures commanded a place in front of the orchestra: the tenor Kurt Amsberger's moving portrayal of the Jewish leader brought a reminder that Weill's own father had been a rabbi, and the baritone Albert Dohmen had gravity and presence as Jeremiah.

Propheten ends with a child's vision of the future, which formed a fitting prelude to Mahler's Fourth Symphony after the interval: Mahler, another Central European composer who went to America to escape anti-Semitism, ends his work with a child's vision of heaven. The finale featured Janice Watson as a lovely soloist, her soprano bright with a creamy edge. The BBCSO was on good form for Bamert, who conducted a warm account of the piece, emphasising the lightness and clarity of its textures rather than the nightmarish undercurrents.

Heaven after the horror

Earlier, in the afternoon Prom, the bright young musicians of Scotland had acquitted themselves well in spite of starting with a handicap in the form of Rory Boyle's tedious and instantly forgettable *Capriccio*, an NYOS commission receiving its first London performance. The odds could also have been better in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 3, where Peter Donohoe's often dull solo playing did not prevent the orchestra from responding with real feeling for the idiom; but they triumphed most of all, even with less than helpful conducting from Junichi Hirokami, in the final movements of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, where they relished the challenges of this virtuosic show-piece and played with vibrant musicality.

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Bugging is big but is it legal? Some surveillance devices fall outside English legislation and fall foul of the European Convention on Human Rights

Eyes on Big Brother

Secret surveillance is on the increase. In recent years the police and other law enforcement agencies have come to rely increasingly on the use of informers and undercover officers for surveillance and criminal intelligence.

The public needs protection from increased police surveillance. Andrew Ashworth reports

On surveillance devices, the report notes that several fall outside current English legislation and would fall foul of Article 8 of the convention. What is needed is a legislative framework which ensures that the use of an intrusive surveillance device is authorised only where the requirements of the article are met.

The basic principles should deal with the main ethical issues raised by the use of informers and undercover officers — the need for a registration system for informers, the question of payments, the level of authorisation required for participating informers or officers, restrictions on what such informers or undercover officers may do when involved in criminal circles, and effective accountability for law enforcement activities of this kind.

SURVEILLANCE

SURVEILLANCE is not new. What is new is the sophistication of techniques which make it easier to intercept conversations and document people's activities. Covert surveillance through telephone taps and bugging were the weapons of the security services. Now they are increasingly used by police to eavesdrop.

Literary pleasures from the law

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There are several good anthologies of legal writings, of which the best are those edited by Louis Blom-Cooper and published by Bodley Head: *The Law as Literature* (1961) and *The Language of the Law* (1965), both out of print.

Most of all, an anthology provides the unmitigated pleasure of identifying what has been unjustly omitted. Shapiro and Garry have concentrated on English-language works, so there is no Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Zola, Kafka or Camus. We get large (and indigestible) chunks of Walter Scott, Anthony Trollope and Herman Melville, but nothing from their modern equivalents.

A new culture of litigation?

COSTLY litigation battles over medical and other accident claims could give way to swift settlements under new codes of practice unveiled by the Government.

Legal DIARY

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Disneyland dissent

SUCH a hit is the idea for the Law Society of England and Wales to go to Disneyland in Paris for its 1999 conference, that squabbling has broken out over whose idea it was.

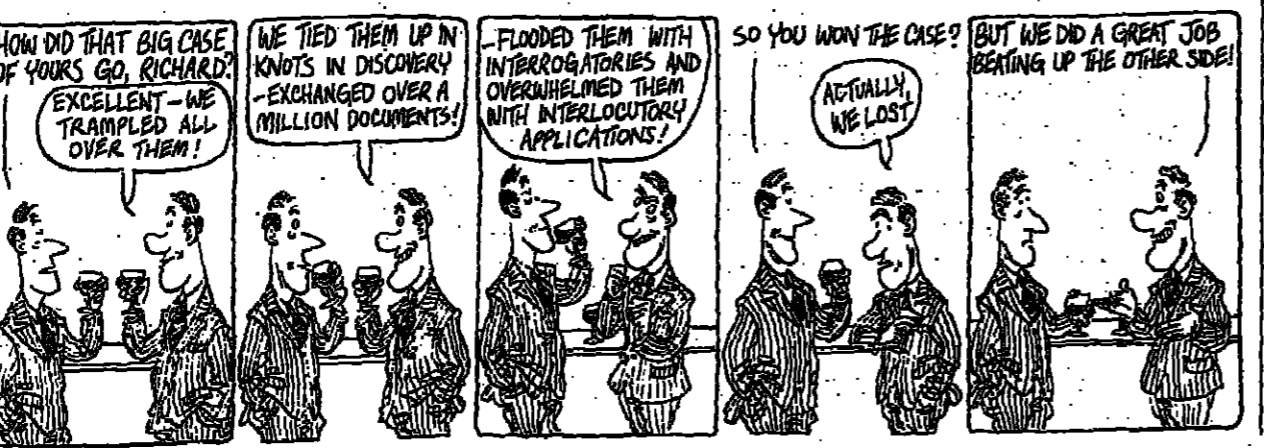
Fat cat

A COMMERCIAL litigation solicitor who runs his own niche firm in Yorkshire has posted Ten Top Tips on the Internet for clients intent on keeping "fat cat" lawyers in good shape.

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Leadership? It's just a matter of quietly getting on with the job

Frances Gibb interviews Phillip Sycamore, outgoing president of the Law Society, on his steady reign

Phillip Sycamore was virtually in the middle of handing over his chain of office when the news came. The Lord Chancellor had shelved controversial plans to withdraw legal aid for accident claims. The announcement two weeks ago had a poetic justice to it. For it was those plans, first declared to shocked solicitors at their conference last autumn, which heralded Mr Sycamore's year as President.

"I was delighted that the Lord Chancellor has taken time not to rush into removing legal aid," he says. "I said that we needed to move more cautiously so I welcome this."

His understated comments typify his style over the past year as leader of the 20,000-strong solicitors profession in England and Wales. But it was a style that turned out to be superbly well matched with the job he found himself doing. As one Law Society official put it: "He was president at a time when big things were happening — what you could call a concerted spin-doctor's attempt to demoralise the profession. But Phillip is not one to fight the profession's corner at all costs, not one for headlines, rhetoric or confrontation."

So he may seem unexciting because he is not a media soundbite man. But he is pragmatic — and what he succeeds so well in doing was in keeping the lines of communication open between us and Government so positions did not become entrenched.

Mr Sycamore remembers the shock of that conference speech in Cardiff. The Lord Chancellor proposed to dismantle the civil legal aid scheme and replace it with "no-win, no-fee" work. Some 15 broadcast interviews followed in the next 24 hours and it set the pace of the year.

In all, more than 60 media interviews followed, including seven on Radio 4's *Today* programme. "It has been hard work — I realised then that there would be no time to stop

and draw breath. But it has been challenging. I have been very reassured by the Government's willingness to listen and I believe we have shown that the Law Society is a credible contributor to debate at a time of dramatic change."

It has not just been a question of persuading Government. His own rank and file, too, have sometimes needed convincing that a full-frontal attack is not the right way to go about things.

"I have tried to persuade them that change is a challenge, not a threat, and that any proposal must be tested against what will be in the best interests of the consumer and administration of justice."

Observers say his quiet leadership has paid off in that respect. The society has faced huge change in the past three years, which has been quite bruising, one said. His style was just right and he has left the job very popular — one of the best-liked Presidents of recent years.

Mr Sycamore came to the job at 47, the youngest holder of the office, from Londsdale, a small three-partner firm in Lancashire, which has carved out a niche practice in professional negligence. He specialises in medical negligence and so could argue from experience about how withdrawing legal aid would hit claims over brain-damaged babies. The year (preceded by one as deputy president) has meant a drain on the firm, although it is reimbursed for his absence — £47,000 — or 1,000 hours in legal aid work.

That work, and the rest, has paid dividends; unusually for a President, in just one year in office, he can point to results. Rapid responses were needed, so Mr Sycamore set up task forces, which could respond more swiftly than the whole 75-strong council — sometimes within weeks. The society, he says, is now much quicker on its feet. Nine months later, the "no-win, no-fee" work will go ahead and the changes to legal aid have been delayed and diluted.

There have been other successes. A specialist in medical negligence work and one of the first higher court advocates, he has been keen to press for lifting restrictions on advocacy rights for solicitors — another reform announced by Lord Irvine of Lairg in recent weeks. His type of firm is typical of those who will gain.

"My time as president has been a major sacrifice for the partners," he says. "But they have been incredibly supportive. And it is an exciting time for a firm such as ours, at the forefront of changes such as wider advocacy rights. That is important to the way we move forward."

Inevitably, work remains to be done. Mr Sycamore, an old boy of Lancaster Royal Grammar School, went with colleagues to see ministers about the financial problems now facing new entrants to the profession. He benefited from a local authority grant, now almost extinct. And he is concerned, as



Phillip Sycamore: "Change is a challenge, not a threat"

Cyber squatting is made illegal

Ray Black and David Rose assess a decision which has huge implications for the Internet

TO SOME it may seem to be nothing more than entrepreneurial zeal getting the better of major corporations: to others the illegal misappropriation of long-established rights. However, the legality of registering well-known Internet domain names by third parties not connected to the owners (known as "cyber squatting") has been outlawed by the Court of Appeal.

It is likely that when Richard Conway, 23, a television cameraman, and his business associate, Julian Nicholson, 24, began registering the domain names of well-known companies in 1996, they did not believe that their exploits would be scrutinised by the Court of Appeal.

But not all the brand owners whose names had been registered by the pair's company, One in a Million Limited, were prepared to stand by. Last September Marks & Spencer, Ladbrokes, J. Sainsbury, Virgin and British Telecommunications (and its Celtel subsidiary) commenced proceedings for passing off and trademark infringement.

The brand owners prevailed in the High Court, and the defendants were prevented from using the offending domain names and ordered to pay a total of £65,000 costs. They also had to transfer the names to the plaintiffs. Nicholson and Conway appealed via a special-

ist team of intellectual property lawyers. At the appeal, the pair argued that registration of the well-known domain names, without use, was not illegal. The brand owners argued that registration of the domain names by the defendants amounted to the creation of instruments of fraud. They pointed to instances of the defendants requesting large sums of money from the brand owners whose domain names they had registered.

In one instance, Conway offered the domain name "burgerking.co.uk" to Burger King for £25,000, saying that if the company did not take up the offer, the domain name would be available for sale to any other interested party.

The Court of Appeal concluded that the motive of the defendants was to use the goodwill generated by the brand owners, by threatening to sell names to others who might use them for passing off, or to extort money. The

court said that the value of the domain names lay in the threat that they may be used in a fraudulent way.

The registrations therefore amounted to instruments of fraud. Accordingly, the High Court decision was upheld.

Although it is the first domain name case in the UK courts, the principles upon which the Court of Appeal based its decision are not new.

The courts have, for many years, granted injunctions to prevent the creation and disposal of instruments of fraud.

There have been several cases where well-known company names have been registered at Companies House prior to a company opening for business in the UK, or on the announcement of a merger.

The Court of Appeal decision is to be welcomed, confirming, for the first time at this level, the principles that have been laid down by the High Court over company name cases.

It is now clear that the registration and offering for sale of well-known domain names (and the registration of company names or vanity telephone numbers) by third parties unconnected with those well-known names is unlawful and will be stopped by the courts.

The authors are head of intellectual property and an assistant solicitor at S.J. Berwin, the City law firm.



Spicing up cyberspace: registering well-know Internet domain names has been outlawed

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Persons interested in either of these posts are invited to discuss them informally with **Chris Reed**, Acting Director of the Centre - Tel: 0171-975 5122; e-mail: chris.reed@qmw.ac.uk. For further details and an application form please telephone our 24 hour recruitment line on 0171-975 5171 or e-mail: coll-recruit@qmw.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference number. Completed application forms should be returned by 1 September 1998 to the Personnel Office, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London E1 4NS.

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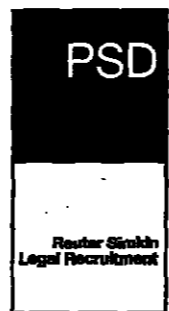
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The person

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- motivated self-starter, able and keen to take the initiative
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Please contact **Jan Collins**, our exclusively retained consultant at **Peter Manners Partnership**, 4 Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE13 0HR. Tel: 01664 500140. Fax: 01664 500139.

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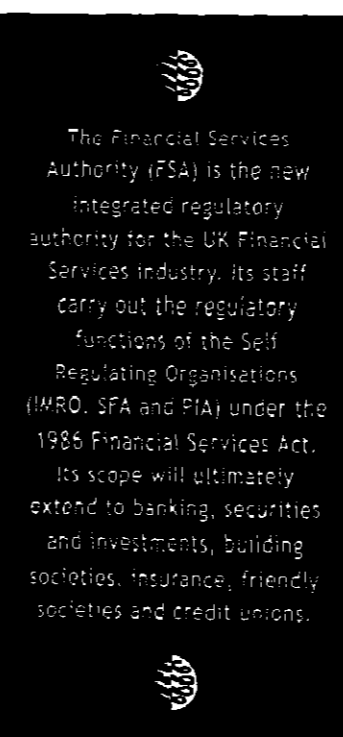
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Trial run for scheme designed to cut red tape

By Brian Collett

A SCHEME to cut the red tape of starting a business is undergoing a trial in the Norwich area.

At present, anybody setting up a business must complete forms for a number of government bodies, including the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Employment Agency and the Contributions Agency. Often the same information is required on every document.

The pilot scheme, Open for Business, being run for the Government by the Post Office, BT, Microsoft and seven other information technology companies, provides one-stop shops.

At kiosks in post offices, telecottages and government offices, guidance is given on starting up a business, and at transaction sites two on-screen start-up forms are available. The completed forms are then sent over the Internet to Post Office servers and downloaded to the relevant government departments.

The scheme is part of the Better Government initiative introduced by the previous administration to improve and streamline services.

Forms now in use show a 40 per cent error rate. Rob Agnew, BT's business development director, said: "People don't understand the forms or the paperwork is lost. The aims of this scheme are to save time, cut government costs and make it easier to set up a business."

The pilot scheme will run for about a year, during which time consultants will look for ways of improving it.



"What you need is a change of scenery — try putting your PC in another room for a while"

Rock'n'roll preacher is toast of the community

Bernard Silk finds a man who proves that business and religion do mix

Pony-tailed Baptist minister the Rev Mike Huck travels Britain preaching the gospel, but he is also landlord of his own pub and has just opened a gourmet restaurant.

Mr Huck, 57, who has toured as a rock'n'roll guitarist and only recently stepped down as boss of one of Britain's top sound equipment hire companies, sees no conflict in his lifestyles.

"My wife, Mary, and I have always lived simply but have wanted to make money to fund projects we have been involved in," he says.

"Over the years, cash from business ventures has gone to aid recovering drug addicts, sent students to college and helped to set up youth centres and play groups."

Enrolled as a theology student — without a grant — Mr Huck paid his way through college by ferrying football teams around in his old minibus and making and selling loose-leaf ring binders in his spare time.

After being ordained he spent 24 years as minister of Heywood Baptist Church in Greater Manchester and also toured the country with The Movement for 11 years.

"I have always loved rock'n'roll and The Movement was a group of Christians who played very good rock'n'roll. We appeared everywhere from festivals and concerts to maximum-security prisons.

"All the band's proceeds went to good causes, often particular ones



Diners at Old Huck's may be serenaded by Mike Huck, whose businesses help to fund his charitable work

we would identify as being in special need of cash."

In 1976, seeing younger members of his church out of work, Mr Huck and fellow Baptist guitarist and deacon Mike Spratt began a business employing the youngsters in hiring out sound equipment to and for pop groups.

"We had been in the rock business and knew what the market needed," says Mr Huck.

WIGWAM — Without Introduction God Welcomes All Men — has provided equipment for hundreds of rock concerts, theatre shows and big outdoor events and employs about 30 people with a turnover of nearly £3 million. Last year WIG-

WAM was voted best audio rental business in the UK.

"We have worked with artists from Boyzone and the Spice Girls to Cliff Richard and Paul McCartney," says Mr Huck. "I was chairman for around 20 years, but have stepped down to let younger colleagues develop the business in their direction."

He always wanted to concentrate on the pub he opened in Heywood four years ago, the Wishing Well.

"It had been closed for a while and took about £50,000 to get up and running," he says. "I wanted a friendly pub without bad language or threatening behaviour."

The pub was so successful that

Mr Huck opened a restaurant next door — Old Huck's, named after his father, Tom, whose portrait beams down on diners.

"It took about £60,000 to re-equip to a suitable standard. After only a few weeks it's full many nights — word gets around — and we are turning people away," Mr Huck says. "Once the restaurant is established, a portion of the profits, like all my ventures, will go to help other people." He expects turnover for the pub and restaurant to be about £500,000 over the next year.

Diners surrounded by rock'n'roll guitars and rock memorabilia are sometimes even serenaded by Mr Huck and his guitar.

Prompt-payment campaign has large drawbacks

By Rodney Hobson

LARGE companies are taking even longer to pay their bills, according to a report by Experian, the information services company. However, Barbara Roche, the Small Business Minister, says that central government has improved its performance and the majority of departments are now meeting the target of paying 95 per cent of bills on time.

Experian says that the worst sector is large vehicle rental companies, which take an average of 80 days to pay up, five days longer than they did last December.

The fastest industry when it comes to paying bills is agriculture, forestry and fishery at fewer than 50 days.

Despite the growing campaign to persuade firms to pay up promptly and the introduction of a statutory right to interest on late payment, British companies take 57 days on average, 27 more than they usually agree when they place the order. The study covered 115,000 companies of all sizes.

Peter Brooker, associate director of Experian, says: "Large companies are still taking more than 70 days, on average, to pay their bills, compared with just 55 days for small businesses and 54 for medium-sized businesses."

"The other difference is that small businesses are, on average, paying their bills one day faster than six months ago, while large companies average half a day longer. Small banks are the best payers, taking only 45 days on average."

The survey follows research by Alex Lawrie, the business finance specialist, suggesting that about half of small businesses will not exercise their right to claim interest of 8 per cent per annum on overdue bills, mainly because they believe it



Brooker: praise for small firms

would damage their business and result in loss of customers.

The legislation is being introduced over four years in three stages. The first stage will give small businesses the right to claim interest payments against large enterprises, including public sector organisations. The second phase will allow small businesses to claim interest on late payments.

Keith Higley, Alex Lawrie's managing director, said: "Small businesses operate in an extremely competitive marketplace and many of these businesses have largely been built on establishing strong trading relationships with their main customers. They really do see the customer as king. We therefore believe that, in reality, this legislation, although well meaning, will have limited impact. Small businesses will merely use it as a tactical tool to charge interest on slow-paying customers whom they no longer value or do not expect to generate any repeat sales rather than as part of normal business practice."

Mrs Roche said in a written parliamentary reply that government had "no room for complacency" and that the target for paying undisputed bills on time would be 97.5 per cent in the current financial year and 100 per cent in the following year.

Her figures showed that the Government Actuary's Department, the National Investment and Loan Office and the Privy Council Office paid all bills on time in the 1997-98 financial year.

Manchester Business School has introduced an MBA in entrepreneurship for owner managers and those involved with small and medium-size businesses. Courses, devised with KPMG, open in January. Information from Tania Smith on 0161-275 6537.

□ NatWest Bank has set up a business mortgage for freehold or leasehold premises. Loans of up to

70 per cent for up to 25 years are available at fixed or variable rates.

□ A guide to help firms in the South West through their early days has been drawn up by Solomon Hare, the accountants, and the CBI. A Guide to preparing your

Business Plan is available from Jacqueline Robinson, Solomon Hare, Oakfield House, Oakfield Grove, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2BN.

□ A free booklet, *Riding the Wave*, has been produced by Thomas Cook to provide information

on European economic and monetary union. Call 0870 9000213.

□ Abbey National has launched a telephone and postal account aimed at sole proprietors and businesses run by two partners who operate their accounts in credit.

There are no transaction charges before the end of next year. Inquiries: 0800 056 5151.

□ Business Link London City Partners and the London Enterprise Agency are forming a business club today. Ring 0171-236 3000 to attend the first meeting at 5.45pm at the City Marketing Suite, 20 Gresham Street. The club covers the City, Hackney and Islington.

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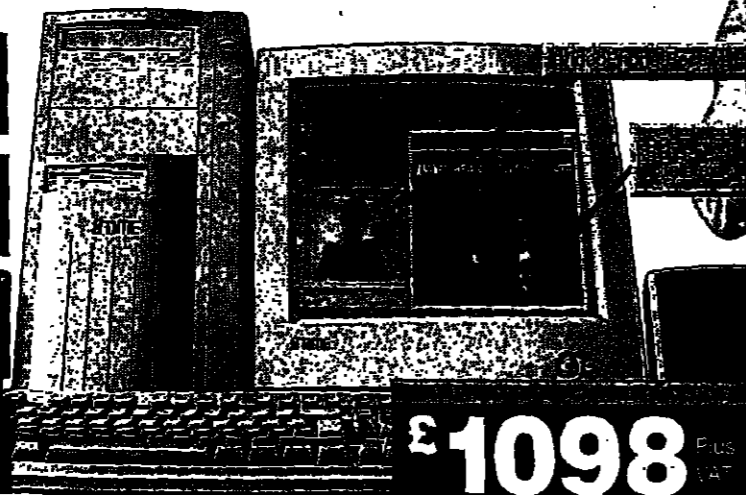
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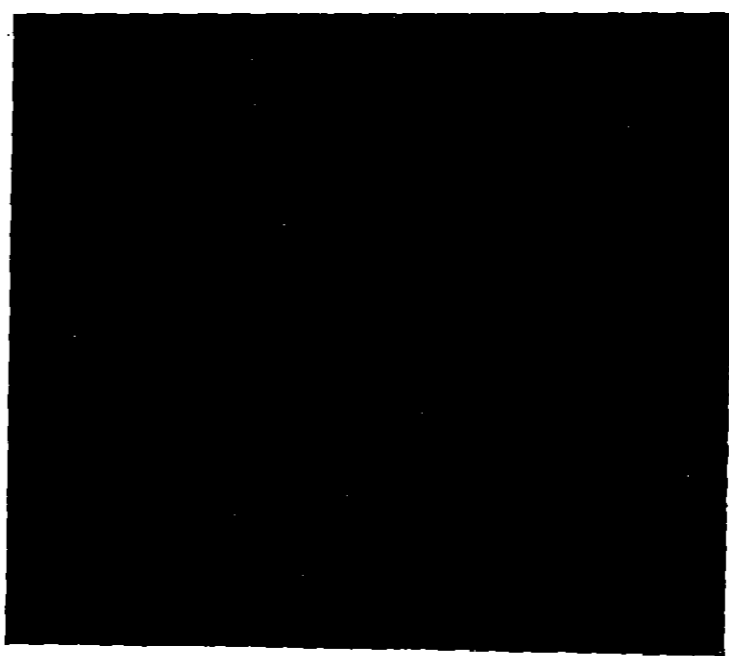
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THE SUNDAY TIMES /S THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Spring... use by... g Sailor... makes case... ue hopefuls

FOOTBALL

United take first step towards Yorke deal

By Richard Hobson

AFTER days of posturing on both sides, the widely anticipated transfer of Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa to Manchester United was finally set in motion yesterday...

Manchester United have been told that they will be able to obtain a work permit for Yorke to play in the Premier League...

Such a commitment was more explicit than that given by Yorke to Villa...

Yorke has offered me an excellent new contract. However, I have agreed nothing at this stage...



Aran Wainwright's reign as the English Amateur champion came to an unlikely end in the first round at Woodhall Spa yesterday...

CYCLING: WEARY ULLRICH BREAKS UNDER ITALIAN'S ATTACK IN THE ALPS

Pantani climbs to top of pile

IN THE chill fog and drizzle of the high Alps, Jan Ullrich of Germany, was a broken Tour de France champion last night...

Ullrich, who had ridden away from the start line in Grenoble with a three-minute lead over the shaven-headed Italian...

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TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

15TH STAGE (Grenoble to Les Deux Alpes, 188km): M. Pantani (Ita), M. Zanardi (Ita), M. Serrano (Spa), M. Serrano (Spa)...

MOTOR RACING

Coulthard close to securing new deal

FROM KEVIN EASON IN ZELTWEIG

THE future of David Coulthard as a driver with McLaren Mercedes could be confirmed within days...

He is desperate to stay with a top team to fulfil his ambition of winning the world championship...

He knows, though, that had luck and crucial mistakes have made him a target of critics...

Denise was non-committal yesterday but said: "Our drivers are everything we want them to be..."

SPORT IN BRIEF

American faces threat of life ban

ATHLETICS: Randy Barnes, the world record-holder in the shot, and Dennis Mitchell, the sprinter...

He is desperate to stay with a top team to fulfil his ambition of winning the world championship...

He knows, though, that had luck and crucial mistakes have made him a target of critics...

Denise was non-committal yesterday but said: "Our drivers are everything we want them to be..."

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS: Birmingham AAA championships... CYCLING: Manchester National track championships...

EQUESTRIANISM: LE TROUQUET, France: European showjumping championships...

GOLF: MASSACHUSETTS: USGA Charity Classic...

BASEBALL: AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 6 Toronto 3...

CRICKET: THE HAGUE: European championships...

CRICKET: CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Oldham 110-4...

CRICKET: YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Sheffield 241-4...

FOOTBALL: (Keston Park) 1 hole: M. Phipps (City)...

FOOTBALL: PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Sharnford 10...

MOTORCYCLING: LYDNEY HILL: USGA Charity Classic...

ROWING: DANNAHA: Queen's National regatta...

ROGUEY LEAGUE: JUB SUPER LEAGUE: St Helens 2 Wigan 38...

SAILING: HAYLING ISLAND: Hampshire Europe Cup...

TENNIS: WASHINGTON: Legg Mason Classic...

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Grand slams are the easiest contracts to play, because there are fewer options than in lower-level contracts...

Dealer North Love all Rubber Bridge

Contract: Seven Diamonds by South. Lead: queen of clubs

You bid yourself into Seven Diamonds, an over-optimistic contract as it needs the diamond finesse as well as other things going right...

After winning the ace of clubs you count your tricks. You have to assume the diamond finesse is right...

The first move is a diamond to the jack, which holds with East discarding a heart...

Next you cash the ace and king of spades. If the spades are 4-3, dummy's remaining two spades are high...

By Philip Howard

SWILCAN BURN: A Scottish festivity... GAMELAN: A French general...

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Absent friends: Sadly, the Smith & Williamson British championship...

White: Julian Hodgson Black: Suat Atalik

White: Julian Hodgson Black: Suat Atalik

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White: Julian Hodgson Black: Suat Atalik

White: Julian Hodgson Black: Suat Atalik



CYCLING 45
Scorching Pantani leaves Ullrich out in the cold

SPORT

FOOTBALL 45
United closing in on Villa marksman Yorke



TUESDAY JULY 28 1998

Emphatic triumph against South Africa sends interest soaring in series decider

Resurgent England win over critics

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN ALL the talk of decline and apathy, the truth was that cricket only needed a winning national team. England took the first step to providing it yesterday and more than 12,000 people, the largest fifth-day crowd in this country for many years, were at Trent Bridge to witness it.

South Africa, dominant through two previous games and apparently set to secure the series and deepen the gloom swirling over the English game, were beaten with emphasis and style in one of the best Test matches of recent years. The eight-wicket margin squared the five-match Cornhill series at 1-1 and created a decider that will surely fill Headingley next week.

Michael Atherton, whom many were unwise enough to write off when he resigned the captaincy in April, confirmed the victory with a masterful

unbeaten 98 and has seldom batted better. Noble support came from Nasser Hussain, who made 58 in a stand of 152, and a carefree 45 from 34 balls by Alec Stewart, the captain, finished the job with more than three hours to spare.

The nerve-shredding climax that had seemed in prospect, as England set out for a target only once exceeded to win a home Test, simply never arose and the victory — England's first over South Africa for ten games — prompted an invasion of this grand old ground by thousands of spectators in party mood.

They were there to celebrate a resurgent team and a game revived. Barely 7,000 had been there on Sunday — a third of the number that watched a pre-season football match at Birmingham City over the weekend — and, despite the cheap admission on offer, the crowd yesterday was staggering proof that a winning England team will



Atherton makes a dash for the pavilion through the joyous crowds after emerging from his duel with Donald, left, to guide England to victory in the fourth Cornhill Test



'We were aware how important it was for the game that we won here'

decisions and get on with the game.

If England had a rough deal over the first three games, as they privately believe, they certainly had more than their share of good fortune with decisions here and Cronje remarked: "When you are winning a Test match, decisions seem to go your way. When you are losing, they tend to go against you. But it all evens up over a period and there are no excuses from us, because England played the better cricket over five days."

Cronje conceded that his team was badly affected by failing to complete victory in the third Test at Old Trafford. "That weighed heavier on us than we knew," he said. England, by contrast, plainly drew inspiration from the escape.

Stewart became the first England captain since Lord Hawke to put South Africa in to bat and win and he felt properly vindicated. "A lot of people disagreed with it and it's true that we didn't bowl well on Thursday, but I had no doubts it was the right thing to do."

No one can argue now. England have won a game and a debutant called Andrew Flintoff must feel Test cricket is a breeze. Atherton was delighted for him. "It's good for him to experience days like this. I remember when I came into the side we were being walloped," he said.

command support and lift the anxieties, real and imagined, afflicting the game.

In this intensely competitive leisure market, the sports-watcher can afford to be selective, even fickle. The product has to be attractive and England, at last, pro-

duced what the people want to see. "The support was wonderful," David Lloyd, the England coach, said. "But now we face the challenge of doing it again, giving them back-to-back wins."

Which, as Lloyd is aware, is precisely what England have found impossibly elusive in recent years. Times beyond number they have decorated a season or a tour with one memorable performance, yet still ended up with a lost series and a disillusioned public.

In Leeds, next week, they have the opportunity to win again when it matters and the prospect has already had an impact on ticket sales. Officials at Headingley reported an upsurge of interest throughout yesterday and put it down entirely to events at Trent Bridge.

Stewart was suitably appreciative. "People have come back to watch us, which is nice to see. We were all aware how very important it was for the game that we won here and

we've done it by playing good cricket. It's been a very fine Test match," he said.

Neither captain felt that the game had suffered through a series of controversial umpiring decisions. Equally important was their view that the relationship between the sides remained as it should be — competitive in the middle but cordial in the pavilion. By way of proof, the teams mingled to drink beer late into the afternoon.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, reflected on the confrontations of Sunday evening, when Allan Donald was denied a decision against Atherton, and said: "It's not going to help to take such things off the field. Both teams have realised they must leave it all behind once they walk over the white line."

Atherton, who declined to "walk" when apparently gloving a catch to the wicket-keeper, was treated to a working-over with ball and words

by Donald but remained unmoved by either. "I can't understand Africans," he said, straight-faced. "Allan is a great fast bowler and we both play it hard on the field, but we've been having a drink together since the game ended."

"Umpiring is a very hard job," Stewart said. "I certainly wouldn't want to be one. They will make mistakes, because they are only human, but they don't do it on purpose and, as players, we have to accept

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD
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No 1469

- ACROSS
1 Panda food (6)
5 S Am. animal, wool fibre (6)
8 Contends (4)
9 More lethal (8)
10 Cut-letter sheet (7)
11 Earth tremor (5)
13 Dickens's David (11)
16 Test (metal) purity (5)
18 Dog-end bowl (7)
21 "Hard pounding" battle (8)
22 Othello's malignant enemy (4)
23 Powerful (6)
24 Imitation (article) (6)
- DOWN
2 To do with the largest continent (7)
3 N American ox (5)
4 Commanded; made priest (8)
5 Two Trojan War warriors (4)
6 Befoul (7)
7 Make sure; call at chess (5)
12 (Funds) out of taxman's reach (8)
14 Inert pill (7)
15 Potion; board-game piece (7)
17 Hardly sufficient; to stit (5)
19 Ends of branches; cottons on (5)
20 Advertise; stopper (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1468
ACROSS: 4 Sac 8 Augment 9 Arena 10 Aired
11 Trestle 12 Endymion 14 Mass 15 Acre 16 Strainer
20 Costume 21 Tibet 23 Serve 24 Riviera 25 Tot
DOWN: 1 Marriage 2 Agar 3 Seldom 4 State-of-the-art
5 Cameo 6 Restrain 7 Easels 13 Derisory 15 Access
17 Active 18 Ritual 19 Quiet 22 Beef

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Cronje can hold his head high after passing test of character

Whatever the result of this magnificent Test match, and let us gather our rosebuds where we may, it would take a brave man to call Allan Donald a loser.

After Alec Stewart had accompanied Michael Atherton in the closing stages, carrying England over the threshold with a series of wholesome attacking strokes, the talk was still of that harrowing spell that Donald bowled on Sunday night. If Atherton and Hussain had not survived it, South Africa would have been confident of taking an unassailable lead in this series.

Donald did not prevail. Atherton, one way or another, made sure he did not. So, gentlemen of England — and ladies — charge your glasses and toast the Didsbury One! Without an innings of heroic proportions by this most single-minded of batsmen, England would be boating up the Trent to Headingley without a paddle.

South Africa have had a wretched time since they won at Lord's. First, they had to endure Croft and Fraser blocking out the last half-dozen overs at Old Trafford to make sure that the series remained alive. Then Fraser helped to bowl them out twice at Trent Bridge, as they threw away a position of strength.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, thought a target of 320 would leave them some room. He blamed the lack of resolution in the batting performance. "We lost three wickets at the end of the third day, and four more at the beginning of the fourth," he said. That, he maintained, was the critical factor.

Michael Henderson on the touring side's part in a memorable match

dignified figure. It would have been easy for him to carp at the way things panned out for his team, the decisions that went against them and the huge slice of fortune that Atherton enjoyed on Sunday night when Steve Durre, the umpire, missed what to everybody else on the ground seemed plain as day.

But he didn't. Like captains everywhere should do, he simply held up his hand and praised the winners. "It was not just a case of one or two

incidents," he said. "In this match, England played better than us."

For Cronje, and for Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, failure to win here will have been galling. Between them, captain and coach have refined the team that came here four years ago under Kepler Wessels to the point that they demand recognition as the world's best side. Also, such recognition remains beyond them. They are a very good team, but they have not

taken that final step that separates them from the rest.

Beating England will not help them to take it. England have not won a Test series of true significance for 11 years; some would say longer. If South Africa do win at Leeds, they won't be putting out the bunting in Cape Town. They would expect to get the better of England over five Tests.

Time and again they have failed to beat Australia over a rubber, and that is a real test of their mettle. They have been beaten home and away, most recently last winter when they thought Mark Waugh had broken his wicket at Adelaide. In fact, his undefeated hundred in the fourth innings broke their hearts.

In Pakistan last autumn, they succeeded splendidly, bowling out the home side for 92 in Faisalabad to take the final Test and the series. They failed to beat them on their own soil earlier this year, however, so it is hard to make a case for gaining ground on that front. The real test of strength used to be West Indies and is now Australia. South Africa have a fair distance yet to travel.

This was a wonderful match and Cronje played a full part in it, though he would have preferred to have made fewer runs and to have won. The bowling of Donald and Fraser, the batting of Atherton, the sadness that was Salisbury, the first glimpse of Flintoff, the umpiring, Boucher's catching (except when it really mattered), a slip catch to boggle the eyes by Kallis. Nobody can say this match lacked incident, drama or charm. It was a corker.



Donald produced a fine performance for South Africa

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